A true realistic description
of the weird killing
and mutilation of tens
of thousands of cattle
in the Western United States.

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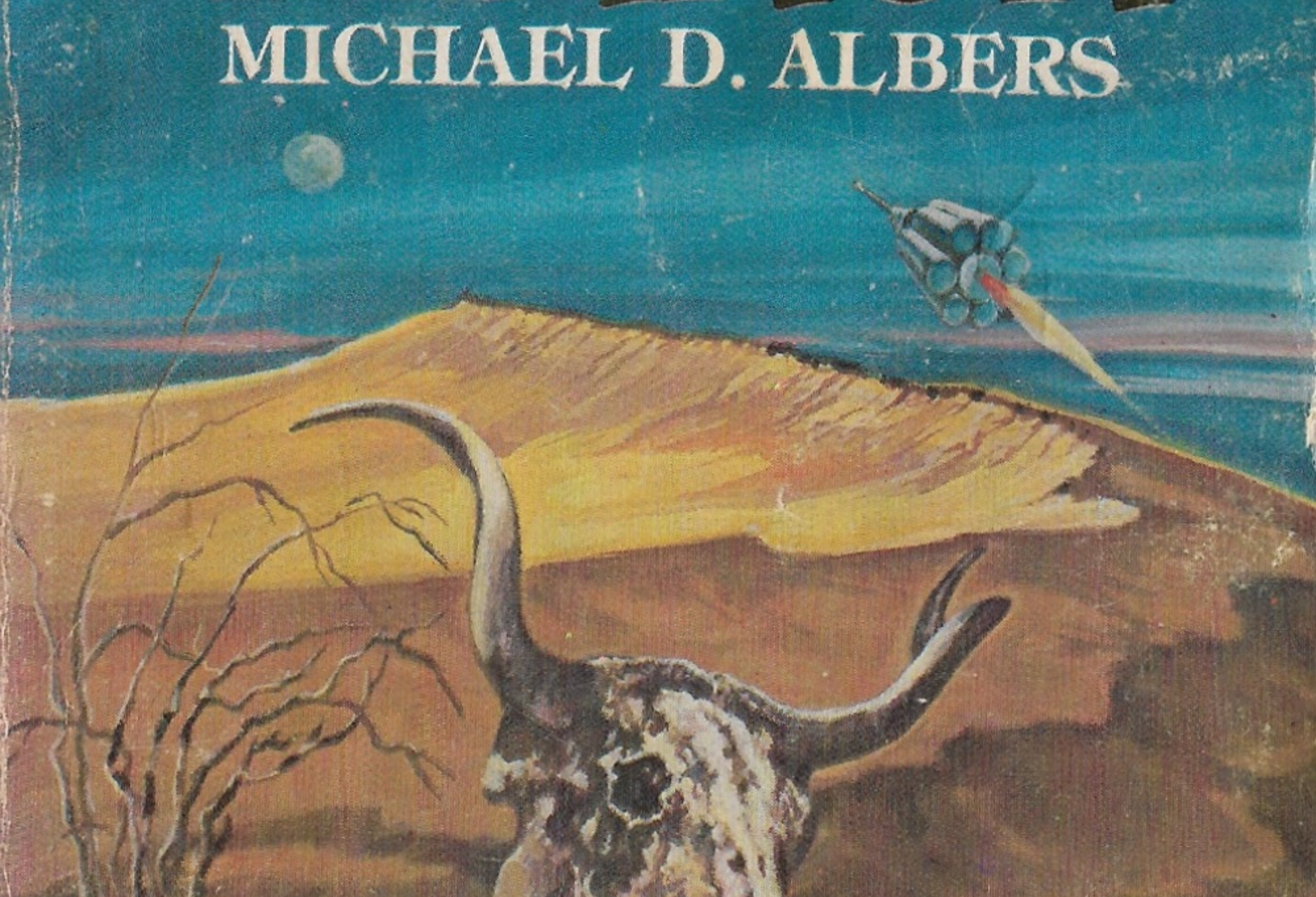
THE TERROR

MICHAEL D. ALBERS



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One witness, who asked to remain anonymous, offered me this account of her strange encounter: "I was driving home through pasture land. It was late at night and there were no farmhouses along that section of road, so I was really shocked when I saw this bright light moving across the field toward me. When it got closer, I could see that it was a dark, round object with a row of brilliant lights along the bottom. It passed overhead and then disappeared over the horizon. I was terrified, even after the thing was gone."

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THE TERROR

Michael D. Albers

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PART ONE:

The Search Begins

CHAPTER 1

I

Every evening, as the sun slips below the horizon, an army of determined farmers and ranchers, most toting rifles and shotguns, takes up strategic positions at crossroads and hilltops from the rolling plains of Nebraska to the flat lands of New Mexico. Others prowl the back roads in pickup trucks or prepare to spend the night patrolling their own grazing lands. They watch the fields, scan the skies, and wait nervously. Some communicate with each other over a network of citizens'-band radios, but most just sit silently, smoking cigarettes and waiting.

They know that a nameless enemy will be lurking in the darkness. An enemy that no one has ever seen, that leaves no footprints or other evidence of its presence, only the

bloodless remains of its victims. A few among them have begun to wonder if their adversary is neither man nor animal, but something that cannot be stopped with guns or any other power they possess.

Many of the men will stand watch all night, completely sealing off large sections of the countryside, yet they know—for they have performed this ritual many times before—that a gruesome discovery may await them with the coming of morning.

II

During the autumn of 1973, more than 40 bizarre cattle mutilations were reported in a dozen counties in north-central Kansas.

In McPherson County the first cow to be mutilated was a 13-year-old Black Angus, which apparently had been killed between 4:00 PM on November 29th and 8:00 PM on November 30th. The following morning, undersheriff Harris Terry examined the scene and discovered tire tracks from a four-wheel drive vehicle on a road about 100 yards from the animal's remains. A single set of footprints began at the tire tracks, went across a fence near the road, and then abruptly ended. There was no evidence that anyone from the vehicle had actually approached the cow.

A few weeks later, C. P. McGuire, the undersheriff in Cloud County, Kansas, investigated a mutilated cow that had been found in the center of a mudhole measuring 20 feet by 75 feet. Once again, no footprints were found anywhere near the carcass.

Rapidly, the cattle deaths began to fall into an eerie pattern. Every few days, a farmer or rancher would find a dead cow with the genitals, udders, and often, an eye, ear, or tongue excised with surgical precision. However, none

of the dead animals exhibited an injury that, by itself, could have been the cause of death. No fatal stab or gunshot wounds, nor evidence of a blow to the head, could be found on the carcasses of any of the mutilated cattle.

An even more puzzling aspect of the deaths was that investigators could find few indications of blood or bleeding at any of the mutilation sites. And, curiously, scavengers and other cattle appeared to avoid the carcasses. Gary Dir, a deputy sheriff in Ottawa County, examined many of the mutilated cattle and later told reporters, "Even with the whole back end cut out, there's no indication of the bleeding that should be there. I've spent all of my life except the last eight months on a farm and I know when a critter's been cut."

Many of the farmers and ranchers began to speculate that the animals had been drained of their blood, and blamed members of an unknown religious cult which they assumed was operating in the area. The fact that most of the mutilated animals had been black in color seemed to support the conclusion that satanists were collecting animal parts for use in their magical rituals. Yet, no one could discover the whereabouts of the presumed cult. Local sheriffs, highway patrol troopers, and the Kansas office of the FBI admitted that they had no suspects in the case, and, in desperation, the Kansas Farm Bureau offered a $500 reward to anyone who could identify the perpetrators. But, no one had the information required and the reward was never collected.

The cattle mutilations became less frequent in the following weeks and finally ceased altogether in north-central Kansas, only to reappear just as suddenly in other states. Over the next several years, thousands of animals would meet the same fate in hundreds of communities from one end of the United States to the other.

III

The phenomenon of cattle mutilations is not new. During the autumn of 1972, a wave of strange animal deaths spread across Sweden. Several calves were slaughtered and later found with their hearts ripped out and stolen. Other calves had their throats cut, while bullocks and pigs disappeared frequently under mysterious circumstances. All of the crimes were vicious and sadistic in nature, but most appeared to be the work of demented humans, with blood, footprints, and tire tracks found at many of the mutilation sites.

During March of 1973, a state trooper stationed at the Jonestown State Police Barracks in Pennsylvania received a report that two sheep had been found dead under mysterious circumstances near the small town of Shirksville. The sheep had been discovered laying in a pasture, and all of the blood had been drained from the carcasses. When other troopers arrived to investigate the incident, they were told that the landowners had already buried the remains. There were no other similar occurences in the following weeks, and the report was soon forgotten.

After the mutilations began in Kansas, nine of the dead animals were sent to the University of Kansas for autopsies. Dr. Harry Anthony, director of the university's veterinarian laboratory, reported in late 1973 that four out of the nine mutilated cattle had died of a common disease called blackleg, which is caused by the Clostridia family of bacteria. Several other state officials took this opportunity to suggest that the apparent knife cuts were actually the work of small, natural predators, such as coyotes and foxes. Undeniably, some of the dead animals were mutilated in this fashion, but there can be no doubt that most were not. The physical evidence for cutting, as

opposed to chewing, is unmistakable. Predators leave teeth marks and jagged edges on the flesh of their victims. And they do not work with surgical precision or remove internal organs intact.

Had the cattle mutilations ceased after the forty or so cases reported in Kansas at the end of 1973, the predator theory might have been accepted. But in the following years there would actually be several thousand incidents, nearly all of them adhering to the same bizarre pattern, and occurring all over the nation. And when something this unusual continues to occur, year after year in places hundreds of miles apart, it becomes obvious that we are dealing with a new phenomenon, and not an incorrect identification of ordinary events. Isolated incidents and the stories of single individuals are easily explained away. If no other solution is available, the witness can always be branded as a liar or the victim of a delusion. But when literally thousands of responsible people are involved, and there is physical evidence, the common explanations become more difficult to apply. And we are forced to accept the reality of these strange events.

During the past several years, I have been able to visit many of the mutilation sites, and interview farmers, ranchers, and law enforcement officers, as well as some of the individuals accused of the crimes. This book presents a chronicle of the mystery, and many of my conclusions concerning its meaning. I have dedicated myself to the belief that there should be no misrepresentation either to support an inadequate scientific theory or to eradicate belief in the unexplained. In my research, I have, unfortunately, found many distortions of fact in the writings of nearly everyone connected with the cattle mutilation mystery. I hope to clear up all of the misconceptions and present an accurate description of these events. This is essential, for an unprejudiced

investigator solves mysteries by pointing out obvious and practical solutions where they apply, and by opening the mind to other possibilities when the answers are beyond present knowledge or understanding. That is my intention in writing this book: to explore the cattle mutilation mystery, offering reliable answers when possible, and offering new theories to explain what we do not presently understand.

CHAPTER 2

I

By midsummer of 1974, a new element had appeared in many cattle death reports. Large, unmarked helicopters were commonly being observed flashing searchlights about and hovering low over grazing lands where mutilated cattle were later found. Flying unmarked aircraft is illegal, and the sightings immediately attracted the attention of several government agencies. However, local law enforcement officials and even the Federal Aviation. Administration were unable to identify any of these mysterious craft or explain how they could be operating across several states without using commercial airfields.

The appearance of the phantom helicopters helped to convince some farmers and ranchers that they were being victimized by a well-financed devil-worshipping cult. But some lawmen, who had previously examined the sites of satonic rituals, disagreed. In all of the cult-related cases they had studied, the sacrificial animals had always been slaughtered crudely, with spent candles, blood, and often magical paraphernalia strewn about. The present crimes were unlike anything they had seen before.

Another theory that the reports of unidentified helicopters bolstered for a time was that the cattle deaths were the work of professional cattle rustlers. However, once again, the evidence did not support the proposed solution. Modern cattle rustlers usually operate in the following manner: they drive a truck onto a grazing field, kill a group of choice cows and butcher them, then load the prime cuts into their truck and drive off. They never take only an eye, ear, or udder, and they always leave behind plenty of blood, footprints, and tire tracks.

A few others speculated that the mutilations were the work of marijuana smugglers, who supposedly used searchlight-equipped helicopters at night to harvest the wild variety of that drug which is known to grow in many of the affected areas. Why marijuana smugglers would waste their precious time—and draw attention to their activities—by killing cattle could never be explained by any of those holding this view.

By April of 1974, the mutilations had begun occurring frequently in Nebraska, which lies across the northern border of Kansas. Early in that month, a cow had been slaughtered on the Norman Robertson farm near the small town of Callaway in Custer County. "There wasn't over a quart of blood left in the animal and on the ground," Deputy Sheriff Jerry Wilkinson announced after examining the dead cow. Two of the animals' teats had been nearly severed and there was a small slit cut through the hide on the animal's belly. Nearby, the cow's newborn calf was found alive—with its tail cut off. As with the other cases, no footprints or tire tracks could be found anywhere in the area.

During the late summer and early fall these hideous crimes spread across the entire state, and the national press began to take notice. By September, nearly 50 cases had been reported in the Cornhusker state, and, after

stories appeared in several large-circulation newspapers, *Newsweek* magazine published an article on the mystery in its September 30th, 1974 issue.

As it had in Kansas, the rumor that the cattle mutilations were the work of a devil-worshipping cult which travelled in helicopters spread among farmers and ranchers, and even convinced some law enforcement personnel. *Newsweek* quotes State Senator Jules Burbach, who represents Knox County, as saying, "I've never seen anything like this. Folks are almost hysterical." As the mutilations continued, armed vigilantes began patrolling the back roads, while ranchers and farmers could be seen with shotguns strapped to their backs as they worked in their fields. In Knox County, Sheriff Herb Thompson told reporters, "The mutilation of these animals was neater than if a butcher had done it. It was more like the work of a surgeon." Senator Burbach spoke for many farmers and ranchers when he said, "The predators are not wolves. They are a semidomesticated, two-legged animal called man."

As the fears of the local inhabitants grew, one unidentified landowner opened fire with a rifle on an electric company helicopter checking power lines near Grand Island, Nebraska, but no one was hurt. Fearing a similar incident, the state National Guard ordered all of its helicopters to fly no lower than a minimum of 1,000 feet. In the following weeks, Sheriff Thompson received several reports of helicopter sightings on nights that mutilations occurred. Once again, no one was able to identify the phantom craft or locate their base of operations.

Of all the helicopter sightings, without a doubt the strangest encounter was reported by Robert Smith, Jr., who lives in the small village of Honey Creek, Iowa, which is just across the Nebraska border. About 5:00 PM on the

afternoon of July 15, 1974, Smith was driving a tractor in his farm's cornfield when two unusual aircraft appeared in the sky. One was a black, twin-engine airplane and the other a white helicopter.

"They both were coming head-on at me and I could see them close-up," Smith later recalled. "I got a good look at both aircraft and when they didn't have any serial numbers on them, I sure knew something was wrong."

"They were close enough that I could see a guy lean out of the helicopter and brace himself on a railing. He was firing a handgun. I could see the dirt fly from the bullets hitting the ground, so I put the tractor out of gear and dove to the ground."

Fortunately, the shots missed both Smith and the tractor. After the two aircraft buzzed the cornfield, they flew off and disappeared. Later that same evening they returned, flying by without incident. Smith contacted the local police and informed them that he had seen the same two aircraft passing low over his farm several times before during the spring, but they had never opened fire on him until that day in July.

The police checked the airports at Omaha, Nebraska, Council Bluffs, and Missouri Valley, Iowa, but no one at these facilities was aware of any similar aircraft in the vicinity of Smith's farm at the time of the attack.

Throughout the autumn of 1974, farmers and ranchers cruised the back roads in pickup trucks—often from dusk to dawn—looking for satanists. Many of the gun-toting vigilantes would stop unfamiliar vehicles and check for cow udders or magical paraphernalia. Back in Knox County, Sheriff Thompson warned would-be travellers, "I wouldn't advise anyone to go into the pastures at night."

About this time, a comment by Dr. Richard Thill of the University of Nebraska at Omaha, a respected scholar of

historical witchcraft, influenced many of those investigating the crimes and added to the hysteria. Dr. Thill called the mutilations "ritualistic" and said that, "It could be someone setting up a fertility cult of some kind." His statements outraged the local practitioners of witchcraft, who proclaimed their innocence in the slayings, but they were accepted without question by many farmers and ranchers who were becoming more convinced each day that a devil-cult was responsible for the crimes.

II

One evening in May of 1973, a farmer in Lincoln County, Minnesota, returned to his home after spending a day in a nearby town. He immediately noticed a dead cow laying a short distance from his house. The animal had been mutilated: two of its teats were missing; there was no blood in the area, and no sign of a fatal wound. Worried about the meaning of his gruesome discovery, he contacted the local sheriff's department.

The following morning, Sheriff Ira Dahl examined the dead animal and concluded that more than likely the apparent mutilation was the result of attacks by small predators. Later, the cow was also examined by the local veterinarian who disagreed with the sheriff's explanation. Dr. Glen Loosbruck somberly announced, "I couldn't have done a better job myself. The teats look as though they were sheared off."

November 6, 1973, on a farm near Canby, Minnesota, another cow met a similar fate. The 1,200-pound animal was found in a grazing pasture only a short distance from the farmhouse. This time the carcass was missing its udders, ear, tongue, and tail, while the hair from the end of the tail had been removed and placed in a neat pile

nearby. All of the cuts had been made with apparent surgical precision, and as usual there was no blood on the ground.

Once again, the local sheriff's department was contacted and a perfunctory investigation was performed. The investigating officer talked to a neighbor and learned that two nights before the mutilation the victimized farmer's cattle had been making an unusual amount of noise. He also discovered that the farmer's son had seen a strange man sitting in a black car which was parked on a road near the farmhouse. The stranger, according to the farmer's son, was flashing a light into an adjacent grazing field. Several days later the cow was found mutilated.

III

By the autumn of 1974, the mutilations were tapering off in Nebraska and beginning to occur frequently in South Dakota and Minnesota. Most of the cases followed the usual patterns: udders, eyes, and ears were excised with great skill, while blood and footprints were strangely absent. Ten of the dead animals were examined at the South Dakota State University and Dr. Mahlon W. Vorhies, associate professor of veterinarian science, reported that some of them had probably been mutilated by humans.

On October 4, 1974, a 400-pound bull was slaughtered on the Charles Metzger farm in southwestern Minnosota. Both of the animal's ears had been cut off and a large strip of hide was missing from the hind quarters. An autopsy by the local veterinarian determined that the bull had died of blackleg, but there were other puzzling aspects about the incident. For instance, there was no sign that the animal had struggled before dying, as cattle afflicted with this disease usually do, and, as with the other cases, there was

very little blood left in the carcass. Apparently, the bull had died of a natural illness and then been mutilated.

As reports of the crimes began appearing in local newspapers, many law enforcement officers were making seemingly contradictory statements to the press, with the majority supporting the previously discredited predator theory. But as the number of reports increased and the evidence for the reality of the crimes mounted, some public officials were willing to admit that they had no acceptable explanation for what was undeniably happening.

CHAPTER 3

I

On November 29, 1974, Mike Rogers, the sheriff of Meeker County, Minnesota, received a telephone call from a local farmer who reported that one of his pigs had been killed and mutilated during the previous night. Sheriff's deputies who examined the animal were unable to determine the cause of death or locate any other evidence which would indicate how the animal had been approached and mutilated. The farmer told them that at 11:30 PM on the night the incident occurred, his security light had gone out, only to come back on about fifteen minutes later. Everyone wondered if the light had been intentionally turned off by the perpetrator of the crime.

A few weeks later, Frank Schifelbien, another Meeker County farmer, asked Sheriff Rogers to investigate the death of a Black Angus cow that had also been mutilated. Arriving at the scene, Sheriff Rogers discovered that the lips of the animal had been cleanly severed, the left ear and the tongue were missing, and the jugular veins had been opened. Though all of the cow's sexual organs had been neatly removed there was very little blood on the ground.

The carcass was laying in a snow-covered field, and although there were no other footprints except those of Rogers and Schifelbien, the snow around the dead animal had melted in a mysterious circular pattern. In the following weeks, a new theory would evolve from this strange evidence.

II

Cattle mutilations were not the only usual events occurring in Minnesota. During the autumn of 1974, dozens of unidentified aerial lights were sighted cruising the skies above the state, often in areas where several mysterious animal deaths had occurred. Unlike the lights sighed in Kansas and Nebraska, these glowing orbs did not look—or act—like helicopters, and many of the witnesses were convinced that they had seen spacecraft from another world.

One witness, who asked to remain anonymous, offered me this account of her strange encounter: "I was driving home through pasture land. It was late at night and there were no farmhouses along that section of road, so I was really shocked when I saw this bright light moving across the field towards me. When it got closer, I could see that it was a dark, round object with a row of brilliant lights along the bottom. It passed overhead and then disappeared over the horizon. I was terrified, even after the thing was gone."

The frequent reports of unidentified flying objects—UFO's—in areas where cattle mutilations were occurring attacted the attention of a Minneapolis, Minnesota, flying saucer buff named Terrance Mitchell. Intrigued by the possibility that that the two phenomena might be related, Mitchell travelled to Meeker County and began his own investigation of the crimes. On December 27, 1974, the

St. Paul Dispatch newspaper published his conclusion that the taking of udders, ears, eyes, and other animal organs was part of a scientific study being conducted by outer space aliens who were piloting the ubiquitous UFOs.

Mitchell's theory was based primarily on the mutilation which occurred on the Frank Schifelbein farm during the middle of December. He had obtained an aerial photograph of the area where the dead animal was found and discovered several large, circular impressions in the snow-covered field, which he believed were the landing marks of the disk-shaped UFOs. Mitchell also called attention to several broken tree branches, which he assumed had been hit by a low-flying UFO, and a group of holes punched through the ice on a nearby frozen pond, where he believed the aliens had taken a sample of the water. Mitchell explained the absence of fatal wounds on the dead animals by suggesting that the hovering aliens had directed a death ray at the cattle which left no external marks.

The story was picked up by the national new media, and Mitchell suddenly found himself being approached by dozens of newspeople who treated him as an expert not only on the cattle mutilation mystery but on the subject of UFOs as well. Late in 1974, he was interviewed by telephone on Tom Snyder's nationwide television program *Tomorrow*.

The publication of the aerial photograph showing the circular impressions at the cattle mutilation site created a major stir among local UFO buffs, who thought they finally had physical evidence which proved that flying saucers existed. I was far from convinced. The taking of eyes, ears, and udders from dead animals did not suggest a scientific experiment to me, either of earthy or alien origin. To get a better perspective on the matter, I mailed a copy of the newspaper article and photograph to John A.

Keel, a New York City writer who has been investigating UFO phenomena for many years and has published several books on the subject, which accept the existence of UFOs but reject the belief that they are visitors from outer space. He was interested in this new "evidence" and remarked that none of the established UFO investigators or writers had ever heard of Terrance Mitchell. This fact would cause Mitchell much anguish in the weeks to come.

Some experienced UFO investigators were undeniably jealous of the newcomer's popularity with the media, and the fact that he had managed to acquire an association—of sorts—with the University of Minnesota. That institution's Department of Concerts and Lectures provides speakers on popular topics to groups outside of the university community. Through this department, the university had hired Mitchell to present a series of talks on UFOs to interested groups. The institution did not support any of Mitchell's theories, only his right to speak out on them. Nevertheless, many of the long-term UFO investigators were upset that he was getting so much newspaper and television publicity, not to mention the apparent backing of a major university, while they often found it impossible to get any media coverage for their studies.

III

All of the publicity about an alleged link between the cattle mutilations and UFO sightings attracted the attention of several highly respected researchers in the area of UFO phenomenon. Dr. J. Allen Hynek, the director of the Center For UFO Studies and previously a professor of astronomy at Northwestern University, contacted a friend, Donald E. Flickinger, a special agent with the Treasury Department's Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, and Firearms, who is stationed in Minneapolis,

and asked him to investigate the possibility that UFOs were involved.

Flickinger interviewed Frank Schifelbien during January of 1975 and was able to explain most of the evidence that pointed to a UFO-cattle mutilations link. The mysterious circles at the site turned out to be snow-covered silage piles, and the tree branches appeared to have been broken by the wind. Schifelbien also claimed that he had chopped the holes in the ice on the pond in order to draw water for his livestock. Many of the local UFO buffs were shocked and angered by these revelations. They had hoped that at last there was physical evidence to prove that the unidentified lights cruising the skies over Minnesota were, indeed, alien spaceships. Some of the nationally known UFO investigators, however were pleased with this new information; they hoped it meant an end to Mitchell's popularity with the press.

Mitchell himself was far from willing to abandon his theory because of Schifelbein's claims. He pointed out that the pond where Schifelbein had supposedly punched several holes in the ice was actually separated from the farmer's grazing pasture by a road and a long fence. Mitchell questioned why the farmer would have drawn water from a place that was inaccessible to his cattle, and intimated that perhaps Schifelbein had just grown tired of all the controversy. In the following months, Mitchell would follow the cattle mutilations across the country, searching for more evidence to support his theories.

IV

One of the first local newsmen to take an interest in the Meeker County cattle mutilations was Michael J. Douglas, the news director of WYOO, a rock station located in

Eagan, Minnesota. Douglas had personally inspected many of the mutilated animals, and often devoted airtime during his news broadcasts to stories of recent cattle mutilations. When the UFO sightings became connected with the crimes, he made WYOO radio a source of information on developing reports of flying saucer activity.

Douglas came to the conclusion that UFOs are a real phenomenon, and originally accepted the hypothesis that, if UFOs were alien spacecraft, they could be responsible for the cattle mutilations. When he heard Frank Schifelbein's explanations for the physical evidence that was found on his farm, however, he radically altered his opinion. During March of 1975, Douglas, along with several other investigators, developed a new theory to explain the evidence—or more accurately, the lack of it—at cattle mutilation sites. According to this new hypothesis, the killers had first disabled the animal by shooting it with a tranquilizer dart, then injected a heart stimulant and allowed the animal to pump out most of its blood through a punctured artery. The blood was collected in a plastic bag, and then taken from the scene along with eyes, ear, udders, and other desired parts.

The only remaining question, according to these investigators, was the absence of footprints. While there was never any physical evidence to support the speculation, they suggested that the killers had used large sheets of cardboard to distribute their weight. They would lay out one sheet, walk across it, lay out another and pick up the first. Using this method, they could approach the unconscious animal, mutilate it, and return to their vehicle without leaving behind telltale footprints.

After Douglas broadcast this new theory, he received several anonymous—and threatening—phone calls, warning him to abandon his investigations into the cattle

mutilations. Fearing that a cult of satanists might be planning some form of retaliation, he restricted, his movements and halted his probe into the mutilation mystery. Douglas, along with most other investigators, believed that the threatening phone calls provided the final proof for this theory, and they assumed the perpetrators of the crime would be arrested within a short time. They had no way of knowing how wrong this belief was.

V

Two young men, Mitchell Masio and Rob Nelson were camping out near Stillwater, Minnesota, on the night of September 8, 1974. Excited about the fishing excursion they had planned for the next morning, they were unable to sleep and decided to walk around the surrounding fields. About 4:45 AM, Masio and Nelson spotted a group of lights shining in the clouded sky. Apparently the lights were moving toward them. When the lights were approximately a quarter mile away from them, the two men realized that they were attached to some kind of craft, which did not seem to be an ordinary airplane or helicopter. It was a craft unlike anything they had ever seen before.

"At first, we were frightened," Masio later told investigator Kevin Randle. "We hid behind a clump of trees but after ten minutes or so, we, Rob and I, convinced ourselves that it was Skylab or a satellite."

The two men began walking away from the site when the UFO suddenly rocketed to a higher altitude and then began moving slowly to the south. A few moments later, it started to dart rapidly from side to side and up and down, often moving like a falling leaf. For the next 30 minutes the UFO danced rhythmically in the night sky.

"We decided to try to signal the UFO in some way," Masio explained. "Rob took off his T-shirt and waved it up and down, like he was trying to attract its attention. After a while, it seemed to see us."

The UFO began moving toward them and losing altitude slowly. Masio and Nelson became frightened again and began running toward the highway. At the road, they flagged down a car and pointed out the UFO to the vehicle's driver. The man got out of his car and looked but was unable to accept the possibility that the UFO—which had again moved to a greater altitude—could be anything but an ordinary aircraft, so he got back into his car and drove off.

Next, a man in a pickup truck with a camper stopped, looked at the UFO and—apparently uninterested in the sight—drove off. The UFO had been in view for more than an hour and dawn was beginning to break. As the amount of light in the sky increased, Masio and Nelson were able to see details of the object. The UFO was disk-shaped with a pair of twin tails extending outward. Around 6:15 AM, the UFO faded from sight.

The two men reported their sighting to the local sheriff and to the St. Paul newspaper. Later, Masio was interviewed by Michael J. Douglas on his radio program.

WYOO's news director would also investigate the first occupant sighting during this UFO wave. On December 2, 1974, William Bosak, a farmer from Fredrick, Wisconsin, was driving in an area near the Minnesota border. It was dark, and patches of fog floated across the highway. Suddenly, Bosak's headlights reflected off a silvery object resting on the road in front of him.

The object was disk-shaped and, as he drove closer to it, Bosak could see a curved section of glass—apparently a window. Behind the glass he could see a strange looking creature with long—almost calf-like—ears. The UFO

occupant's body looked as if it were covered with dense, brown hair. The hair on the creature's head appeared to be combed back.

In a taped interview, Bosak told Douglas, "I was scared when I first saw it. But the creature's eyes were large and protruding and it seemed afraid of me."

As Bosak's car approached the UFO, he became terrified and accelerated to escape from the spot quickly. In the months and years to follow, many others would see strange, hairy creatures in areas experiencing cattle mutilations.

CHAPTER 4

I

As the mutilations ended in Minnesota, they began in Texas. Presumably, the police investigations and publicity had made it increasingly difficult for the satanists to operate in Minnesota and they had moved south. As the crimes continued, the Aerial Phenomena Research Organization, the nation's second largest civilian UFO society, erroneously reported in its monthly bulletin that "members [of the devil cult] ran afoul of the law and were apprehended." But the cattle mutilations continued and so did the sightings of unidentified aircraft and UFOs.

Other investigators, however, were aware that animal mutilations with apparent UFO connections were nothing new and had happened years before under very similar circumstances. There are many documented cases, occurring in areas where UFOs have been reported for several days, of farm animals, especially cattle, disappearing or being mutilated. Several of these incidents have been observed by multiple witnesses.

Perhaps the best known animal mutilation occurred in the San Luis Valley, about twenty miles northeast of

Alamosa, Colorado, during the early Autumn of 1967, and, incidentally, was first investigated by a member of the Aerial Phenomena Research Oranization (APRO). A three-year-old Appaloosa gelding named Snippy was found dead by its owner, Mrs. Burl Lewis, on the 9th day of September. From the neck up, the horse's flesh had been completely removed, exposing the skull and upper vertebra. The rest of the carcass was intact and there was no blood or human footprints in evidence. A visual inspection of the remains determined that scavenging animals and birds had not touched Snippy's body.

Frightened by her macabre discovery, Mrs. Lewis contacted the local sheriff and described the condition of the carcass. He told her that the animal had more than likely been struck by lightning, and refused to visit the scene or pursue the investigation any further. Nevertheless, Mrs. Lewis refused to accept this explanation, since there was no evidence of singed hair or burned flesh on the animal and the area around the collarbone, where the hide had been removed, looked as though it had been cut with a surgeon's scalpel.

Determined to find the cause behind her horse's strange death, Mrs. Lewis contacted Duane Martin of the national forestry service, who examined the area around Snippy with a civil defense geiger counter. Comparing the mutilation site with several test areas, he found radiation above the normal level near the animal's remains.

When examined on September 29th, the bones of the horse's neck and head had turned a vivid pink, and later they became black. The body was still intact, although a few maggots had appeared in the neck area and there was some evidence that coyotes had begun chewing on the rump area. Strangely, their droppings in the area indicated that they were suffering from diarrhea.

Early in October, Don Richmond, a member of APRO,

learned of the case through a newspaper story and visited the site in order to conduct the first thorough investigation. He discovered several other disconcerting facts. Excluding one small area, where Mrs. Lewis had confined visitors, there were no footprints or vehicle tracks within 100 feet of Snippy's remains. But, one hundred and fifty-five feet northeast of the carcass was a small bush which had been squashed flat leaving a single branch projecting upward. A circular area about twenty feet in diameter around the bush appeared to have been "swept clean" and was very smooth. The ground outside the circle, however, showed evidence of "rain pelting:" a short period of precipitation had left small dimples on the dry earth.

Off to the northeast was another damaged bush. This five-foot-high shrub, about fifty-eight feet from the carcass, exhibited several branches that had been broken and smashed. Surrounding the bush were eight holes that appeared to have been poked into the ground. The holes were two and one-half inches in diameter and nearly five inches deep.

Richmond also discovered several strange burn marks or darkened areas on the ground near the carcass. These appeared to be arranged in several groups. The first set consisted of four marks: three of them aligned four, nine, and twenty-one feet northwest of the remains in a straight line, with the fourth slightly north of this group and thirteen feet from the carcass.

Another set of burned areas began about forty-three feet from the animals's remains, and consisted of four more marks arranged in a straight line directly east of it. These were three, two, two, and nine feet apart, respectively. South of the last mark in this group and nearly ten feet away was another mysterious burned spot; west-southwest of this one was another; and still another

was found about 500 feet due south of Snippy's carcass.

While searching the area for more evidence, Mrs. Lewis found a tuft of horse mane on the damaged bush one hundred and fifty-five feet from the animal's remains. The hair appeared to be attached to a piece of "something" that resembled a chicken's liver. When she picked up the strange object and broke it open, it oozed a greenish substance over her fingers. A few minutes later, her hands began to redden and burn. Only after washing her hands did the burning sensation disappear and the color return to normal.

At the time of the animal's death numerous UFO sightings had been reported in the Alamosa area, and the theory that Snippy had been dissected by aliens from outer space was offered by several newspaper writers. Coincidentally, a study of the UFO question was being conducted at the University of Colorado, directed by Dr. Edward Condon and financed by the U.S. Air Force, during the same period. After considerable comment on the Alamosa incident appeared in the national press, the Condon Committee, as the study group had come to be called, dispatched an investigator to the scene. Later, a newspaper reporter would ask Robert Low, the Condon Committee's Project Coordinator, about the unusual evidence found near Snippy's carcass. And Low would reply that a chemical analysis of the burn marks and "other unidentified substances" found near the dead horse *might* be carried out. "It depends on how much of the taxpayers' money we're willing to spend."

Two young college boys were more successful than the Condon Committee in obtaining useful evidence. They camped out in the San Luis Valley, near where Snippy's remains had been discovered, and one night mananged to photograph a large, diffuse light silhouetted against the valley floor. They returned from their adventure with two

pictures of the UFO and a detailed log describing the object and its maneuvers across the landscape.

In the weeks following the horse mutilation, many residents in the area reported sighting unmarked, fast, maneuverable jet planes flying close to the ground. The unidentified craft were smaller than a Piper Cub and made a great deal of noise, as if they were attempting to attract attention. The Air Force denied any knowledge of them, and they disappeared shortly thereafter along with the mysterious UFOs.

II

If one looks dispassionately at all of the available evidence in the mutilation mystery, it is apparent that a UFO connection can not be ruled out. Unfortunately, the seemingly outlandish nature of this possibility has lead to its immediate rejection by many law enforcement officers. For most of them, the devil cult hypothesis remained the only viable alternative.

In a bizarre series of events, Jerome Clark, a UFO researcher and writer from Moorhead, Minnesota, was indirectly responsible for swaying several high officials in the criminal justice system to this viewpoint. Clark had been studying the mutilations mystery since 1973, when his investigations led him to Ross Doyen, a Kansas rancher and state senator. A 500-pound heifer had been found dead and mutilated on Doyen's land. After an article on the incident appeared in several Kansas newspapers, Doyen received a letter from a convict named A. Kenneth Bankston. Writing from Leavenworth (Kansas) Federal Penitentiary, where he was serving a sentence for bank robbery, Bankston claimed to know the identities of those responsible for the cattle mutilations.

Doyen did not believe Bankston had any credible

information, but he gave the man's name to Jerome Clark. After obtaining permission to correspond with the inmate, Clark began an exchange of letters with Bankston in January of 1974. In his first letter, Bankston alleged that the mutilations were the work of a clandestine religious cult dedicated to the worship of Satan. After becoming a confidant of several imprisoned cult members, he was told of the group's goals and methods of operation. The animal's blood, according to Bankston, was being removed with a hypodermic needle, while the animal's sex organs were being taken for later use in "Fertility rites."

In other letters, Bankston stated that the cult was also involved in the bombing of the Army computer lab at the University of Wisconsin in August of 1970 that left one university employee dead, and that the satanists were about to begin a series of human sacrifices. Bankston told Clark that his only motive for providing the information on the devil worshippers was to prevent the deaths of innocent people. But he claimed to be afraid of reprisals by unnamed prisoners within Leavenworth, and requested that Clark arrange a transfer for him and one other informant to a jail in Minnesota for their protection.

Clark, himself, had no influence within the prison system, but he did contact Donald Flickinger, the Minneapolis-based special agent from the Treasury Department's Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, and Firearms. It was now early 1975, and Flickinger's office was being swamped by reports of cattle mutilations in nearly two dozen western states. He decided to pursue this lead, even though he knew it offered little hope of success.

On Flickinger's behalf, Clark once again began corresponding with Bankston, who was now being held at the Marion Federal Penitentiary in Illinois. This time, Bankston's letter contained even more bizarre allegations, including the description of a murder in which the sex

organs of the bull were placed within the bodies of a pair of young runaways who had been killed somewhere in the Midwest.

Bankston had a natural talent for making the weirdest story seem believable, and slowly Flickinger began to accept the informant's tales, which were still mixed with pleas that he be transferred to a Minnesota prison. Flickinger eventually approached the people in the United States District Attorney's office in Minneapolis, in hopes of arranging a transfer. Incredible as it may sound, the District Attorney was so impressed with Bankston's allegations that he contacted Federal Judge Myles Lord, a highly respected member of the bench, and asked that Bankston be brought to Minnesota. Judge Lord was willing to contact the warden at Marion Penitentiary to discuss the possibilities of making a transfer to a prison in the Minneapolis area, and he found the warden agreeable.

After hearing of the plan to move him to a Minneapolis jail, Bankston wrote to Clark and expressed the fear that the satanic cult had supporters within the Minneaspolis police establishment. Claiming that his life would be in danger in a big city prison, he asked to be placed in a small rural jail where his presence in the state could be kept secret. Bankston also requested that another convict named Dan Dugan, who allegedly was a member of the devil cult and claimed to have been present at rituals involving human sacrifice, be transferred along with him.

Perhaps the main reason why Flickinger and Judge Lord were so willing to bring Bankston, and later Dugan, to Minnesota was their allegation that the satanic cult had prepared a list of prominent Americans who were marked for assassination. Supposedly, the list included the late Senator Hubert Humphrey, numerous other members of congress, several television newsmen, and for some inexplicable reason, movie actress Kim Novak.

Judge Lord was able to arrange the transfer, and on February 18, 1975, Bankston was moved to the Dakota County Jail in Hastings, Minnesota. Three days later, Flickinger interrogated him. Bankston began by proclaiming his innocence, denying that he had participated in any of the cult's crimes, and asserting only that he was in contact with certain cult members. Bankston also elaborated on the method used to drain the animal's blood. First, he claimed, the cattle were injected with a powerful animal tranquilizer called PCP. Next, amyl nitrite would be administered through the respiratory system; this would cause the animal's heart to beat rapidly, and the blood could easily be collected with a large veterinarian syringe. The mutilators themselves walked on large sheets of cardboard to avoid leaving footprints.

Then Bankston dropped his bombshell. One member of the satanic cult had previously served in the Air Force and, according to the informant, had now developed a plan for seizing a nuclear missile silo. The devil worshippers' intention was to launch the rockets with their atomic warheads at major population centers. Later in 1975, mysterious flying craft, some described as helicopters and other as UFOs, did appear over Minuteman missile silos in Montana, reinforcing the belief that a satanic group was interested in the weapons. One night, jet fighters were actually scrambled at Malmstrom Air Force Base to intercept a group of UFOs, but their unidentified visitors easily evaded the pursuing jets.

One month after beginning the interviews with Bankston, Federal officials transferred Dan Dugan to the Dakota County Jail. Dugan was not allowed to converse with Bankston, yet he was able to confirm nearly all of the other informant's information. Claiming to have been a

member of the cult since 1965, Dugan identified a Texas helicopter pilot as being the one who had recruited him. Texas police were informed of the allegation, and the pilot was placed under surveillance for a short period to determine if he was involved with the mutilations. Their surveillance proved fruitless.

Bankston and Dugan also supplied Federal agents with a long list of alleged cult members. Many of those named had criminal backgrounds or known occult interests. A woman whose name appeared on the list had been arrested in 1969 for robbing graves in North Dakota. Dugan also claimed that he was with cult members in 1965 when they shot four young campers with tranquilizer rifles. The victims, who apparently died of a PCP overdose, were mutilated and then buried in a gravel pit near Cozad, Nebraska. The police in Cozad were contacted about Dugan's allegations and they spent several days digging for bodies, but not a single human bone was discovered.

Feeling the need to embellish their tale further, Bankston next accused the satanists of having been involved in the 1974 theft of plutonium from the Kerr-McGee Cimarron facility, an industrial plant producing nuclear fuel in Crescent, Oklahoma. An investigator, Karen Silkwood, had died under mysterious circumstances, while studying safety conditions at the facility. Apparently, Silkwood was fatally injured when her car was run off the road by another vehicle. She was known to have had the written results of her investigation in the car at the time of her death, but a search of the automobile and the surrounding area after the accident failed to locate these papers. Bankston was now accusing the devil worshippers of having killed Silkwood in order to keep her quiet about their involvement in the pilfering of plutonium.

The possibility that the satanists had obtained a

radioactive material with which to construct nuclear weapons added new impetus to the Federal investigation. Flickinger was relieved of all other duties at the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, and Firearms in order to pursue the mutilation case full time, under the direction of United States Attorney Robert Renner in Minneapolis.

III

At the beginning of 1974, a student at Kilgore Junior College in Texas submitted a term paper on a bizarre devil-cult calling itself "The Sons of Satan." The work contained graphic accounts of how the satanists would kill and mutilate cattle during the hours of darkness. Usually, the ritual deaths were timed so that sunlight would begin filtering down on the unfortunate animal through the branches of surrounding trees at the ceremony's conclusion. If there were no trees present at the site, the devil worshippers would hold a severed branch over their animal victim, or so the paper claimed.

Less than pleased with the student's effort, the instructor at Kilgore destroyed the paper. When questioned about his sources, the student replied that he had obtained the information from a friend who was acquainted with cult members.

An English professor from Pennsylvania told Reporter John Makeig of the *Fort Worth Star-Telegram* that he knew a great deal about the Sons of Satan. He claimed to have known "some [cult] girls who'd cut off their fingers and pieces of their ears and things like that." Allegedly, the primary way for gaining status within the group was for a member to eat his own flesh.

Beginning in January of 1975, John Makeig wrote a series of newspaper articles on the cattle mutilation mystery. The stories eventually came to the attention of

the convict-informant Bankston, and the two men began corresponding. Bankston now claimed that he had information on the satanist's future activities within the Lone-Star State. Apparently, the authorities in Texas, like those in Minnesota, were willing to believe every word Bankston said.

In a small community south of the Houston area, agents from the Texas Department of Public Safety met with the mayor, city manger, and the chief of police to warn them that the town's water supply was about to be poisoned by marauding satanists. While in Mayflower, a tiny village near the Louisiana border, a deputy sheriff gathered together as many of the town's citizens as he could and announced that two of them would soon be killed and mutilated. Near panic developed in both cases.

Meanwhile, other newspapers were beginning to print bits and pieces of the story. Back in Minnesota, the *Minneapolis Tribune* reported on April 20, 1975, that an agent from the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, and Firearms, whom the newspaper did not name, had been temporarily attached to the U.S. Attorney's office to investigate the possible involvement of satanists in the cattle mutilating. The *Tribune* also reported that the investigator's life had been threatened and that blood had been smeared on the house. Moreover, another man from the Minneapolis area had been threatened, according to the newspaper, because of his probe into the devil-cult theory.

When asked by the *Tribune* to confirm these reports, a spokesman for the U.S. Attorney's office in Minneapolis said, "No comment, and I can't even tell you why I can't comment." When pressed further about the veracity of the reports, he replied that he had read some of the articles and "some are true and some aren't."

IV

By the end of spring, Federal authorities had decided that there was no truth in any of the stories told by Bankston and Dugan. Their allegations regarding the identity of the devil-cult's national leader had easily been proven false. An investigator had checked the man's prison record and discovered that he was safely behind bars at the time the two informants claimed he was traveling about the countryside, directing animal—and human—sacrifices.

After John Makeig learned that the Federal investigation had been discontinued, he was more cautious about publishing Bankston's stories. Bankston, however, became more brazen; he wrote a letter to the newspaperman in which he claimed the mutilation cult would gather at the Big Bend National Park in southern Texas during August to perform a satanic ritual. Makeig notified the park superintendent, but the occultists failed to appear. Next, Bankston hinted that a member of the cult might be planning something that would keep Makeig from writing about the satanists—something permanent. Makeig decided not to take the chance that this allegation was false, so he gave the Fort Worth police all of the evidence he had assembled on the identities of the mutilators. But, needless to say, no attempt was ever made on John Makeig's life.

Bankston's career as an informant was rapidly coming to a close. Captain Keith Wolverton, a member of the Cascade County, Montana, sherrif's department, traveled to Marion Penitentiary, where Bankston had been returned after the Federal investigation ended, to question the inmate about cattle mutilations in the officer's home state. During their meetings, Bankston was given a polygraph examination, which he failed miserably. After Makieg learned of the lie detector test results, he began

contacting people on Bankston's list of alleged cult members, only to discover that most had good alibis and could not have been involved in the animal mutilations.

By the beginning of October, 1975, Makeig was certain that all of Bankston's tales were false. He responded by publishing a scathing article in the *Star-Telegram* debunking all of the informant's stories. Bankston's role in the cattle mutilation mystery had come to a sudden—and somewhat embarrassing—conclusion.

The motives the two informants had for creating this fantasy are difficult to discern, but Bankston had attempted to make a deal with the government, exchanging information for a transfer to a prison in his home state of Mississippi, and he seemed to believe he could make money through the publication of the story. Dugan, on the other hand, had sought a reduction in his seven-year sentence. Neither plan came to fruition. Another possibility relates to incidents which occurred while the two informants were still being questioned. On May 31, 1975, Bankston managed to escape from his Minnesota jail along with another prisoner, only to be apprehended six hours later. The day after Bankston's escape, Dugan also fled his prison and was later recaptured during a holdup attempt. Perhaps the two men had only hoped to escape their jails and, assuming it would be easier in a small, rural prison, created this elaborate fantasy to obtain transfers.

In any event, the publication of all these lies, which included a lead article in the November, 1975 issue of *Saga* magazine titled, "The Killer Cult Terrorizing Mid-America," had one major, and unfortunate, effect: a lot of suspicion and hostility were directed at innocent occultists.

CHAPTER 5

I

During this entire period, I had been monitoring the actions of several other individuals who were investigating the cattle mutilation mystery, and more often than I care to mention these investigators claimed that mutilated human bodies had been found which could definitely be linked to the deeds of one satanic group or another. But when these stories were carefully investigated, they always turned out to be false. These same rumors appeared in every community that experienced animal mutilations, and they were often embellished with macabre details. In one area, it was reported that a note was found on a mutilated animal's remains which read: "Next time it will be a human being." In another community, the rumor concerned a farmer who had gone into this fields one night to investigate a strange noise and was found dead the next morning—castrated and drained of blood. As with the stories before them, both rumors were false.

There are several "professional" satanic societies in the United States that have been involved in every type of crime from drug abuse to murder. The previously mentioned Federal investigation probed into the activities

of all of these groups and no hard evidence was found to connect any of them to the cattle mutilations. But during this time, a number of books and motion pictures had made satanism a part of the public consciousness, and the rumors would not go away.

II

For sixty days in 1949, a fourteen-year-old boy from Mount Rainier, Maryland, was subjected to a series of medieval Catholic rituals known as exorcisms. The child, identified only as "Roland" by the Jesuit priests who performed the ceremonies, had been unsuccessfully treated at Georgetown University Hospital for a severe psychological disorder, which included mutiple personalities. The medical professionals involved in the case had concluded that the only hope for helping the boy appeared to be the ancient religious ritual for ending demonic possession.

During the ceremony, Roland, who claimed to be a devil, broke the shackles which held him to his bed, tore a bedspring from the mattress, and jabbed it into the arm of one priest, inflicting a wound from the wrist to the elbow. At another time, it took ten people to hold the child down after he broke free from his fetters. And one night, Roland shook off those holding him and soared though the air toward one of the priests, who was standing at the far end of the room, holding a printed copy of the exorcism ritual. The child struck the book and it crumbled into small, confetti-like pieces and fell to the floor. After two months of constantly repeating the ceremony, Roland was relieved of the "demon," and has since lived a normal life.

One of the Jesuits had kept a diary during the exorcism, which later came into the possession of William Peter Blatty, a novelist. Blatty wrote a fictionalized version of

the incident in which he changed the boy to a girl and added events from other historical exorcism. When the novel was published it quickly became a best seller with over nine million copies in print. In 1973, a movie version was released and played to packed houses for many months.

As the child went through violent—often terrifying—contortions on the screen, some members of the audience fainted or vomited, while other viewers became convinced that they were possessed by the devil and begged incredulous priests for help. Dozens of psychiatrists publicly condemned the film as a danger to the mental health of the nation. And newspapers carried reports of fundamentalist religious groups holding mass exorcisms in which they "whipped" the devil out of drug addicts with wooden sticks. Needless to say, the motion picture went on to become one of the highest grossing films of all time.

Belief in the devil and demonic possession is not limited to religious fanatics and satanists. Louis Harris, the famous surveyor of public opinion, reported on April 29, 1974, that more than seven million Americans over the age of eighteen believe that they themselves or someone very close to them has actually been "possessed by the devil." More than a third of us, according to the Harris Poll, believe some people are occasionally possessed, either in mind or body. And more than half of us believe that a devil exists as a supernatural being, while only a little more than a quarter of the population deny his existence. Obviously, movies such as *The Exorcist* and *The Omen*, which have been seen my millions of Americans, have helped to spread belief in Satan and secret cults that worship him. The cattle mutilations were, for many, the final proof that satanic groups were at work all across the nation.

III

Back in 1954, Gerald Gardner, an occultist and male witch, spoke of witchcraft as a dying cult. However, during the 1960's, there was a general resurgence in all occult practices, and witch covens, as their groups are called, began appearing all over America; much to the consternation of many fundamentalist Christian organizations. The fear that the ancient religions were once again growing in popularity lead to panic and much over-reaction by many evangelists. Several years ago, *The New York Times* reported on a planned tour by a "Witchmobile," an anti-occult vehicle staffed by a minister who would warn the nation's teenagers about Black Masses, blood-drinking orgies, and other evils he was convinced were now commonplace.

In spite of the faddish nature of today's witchcraft, some of the modern interest in occultism does have an intellectual—and historical—viewpoint. In 1921, Margaret Murray, an anthropologist and assistant professor of Egyptology at University College in London, published a book titled *The Witch-Cult in Western Europe*. She had spent many years studying the origins of European belief in witchcraft and going over the voluminous testimony of accused witches given during the inquisition of the sixteenth and seventeenth centuries. Professor Murray was very much impressed by certain themes that appeared in nearly all of the confessions obtained by the Church. The repetitious descriptions of rituals and ceremonies given in many different countries suggested, to her, that an organized witchcraft cult had existed throughout Europe prior to the Christian era.

Most historians had earlier rejected this possibility, assuming that since the confessions involved had, for the

most part, been obtained under torture, or under threat of torture, they were invalid. The groups and rites described in the testimony were believed to have existed only in the minds of the witch-hunters.

But there is other historical evidence to support Professor Murray's theory. From Spain to the Soviet Union, there have been found drawings of the horned god associated with witchcraft carved into rocks; all of these figures are very old and some were carved more than 30,000 years ago. The early laws of the Church also provide some insight into the nature of Europe's religions in the pre-Christian era. In 668 A.D., the Archbishop of Canterbury ruled that people who ate and drank in heathen temples, or wore the heads of animals in rituals, should do penance for three years. The stag's horns, which are still used in witchcraft ceremonies today, were not meant to symbolize the Christian devil, but the male principle in what was essentially a fertility cult. Obviously, a fertility cult would have been totally unacceptable to the Christian theologians of the time, since they considered all sexuality sinful.

Over the centuries, the Catholic Church became more powerful and was able to challenge the "Old Religion" in more aggressive ways. In 1184, Pope Lucius III assembled his bishops and ordered them to conduct a systematic inquiry into all manner of heretical beliefs. This order resulted in the formation of the notorious body known as the Inquisition. In 1486, two members of the Inquisition published a large volume, titled *Malleus Maleficarum*, which described in considerable detail the methods for discovering and executing witches. The monstrous persecutions continued off and on for centuries, and vast number of innocent people perished.

Not all of the reasons behind the Inquisition were religious in nature. England's King Henry VIII, who could

not have been less concerned with consolidating the power of the Church, found a way to profit monetarily from the Inquisition. In 1542, a law was passed that not only condemned witches to death, but also confiscated their lands and money for the Crown. The last person in England to be excuted for practicing witchcraft was Alice Mollard of Exeter, who went to the gallows in 1684. A little more than half a century later, Parliament would repeal the laws condemning witches to death. Thereafter, the sentence for those convicted of following the old religion would be one year in prison.

It is easy to see why many modern day practitioners of witchcraft became extremely nervous when it was suggested that an occult group was responsible for the cattle mutilations. This was especially true among adepts who called themselves "white witches," and saw themselves as highly virtuous individuals.

At this point a clarification of terms is useful. Most of the practicing witches in our society consider themselves to be white witches. They do not oppose those who choose to follow Christianity. Rather, they wish to be free to follow a religion that, they believe, restores the beauty and magnificence to Nature, whose very existence appears threatened by modern science and religions. But the practice that provides the greatest distinction between white witches and their counterparts, the so-called "black witches," is their alleged use of ritual magic exclusively for the benefit of all people. Black witches, on the other hand, employ magic for personal gain, and are not concerned with the effects it may have on others.

In theory, this distinction sounds good. But in practice, the two classifications tend to merge. When a white witch performs a ritual to acquire a social position or a material possession for a client, the desired object must necessarily be denied to someone else, in effect harming them. The

attempts by members of the witch cult, whom I have heard, to reconcile these dual effects, and remain consistent with their stated philosophy, have been less than successful.

It is not my intention here to suggest that witches actually possess supernatural power, or that they are simply deluded individuals playing childish games. I have seen witches perform miraculous personality changes, in themselves and others, using the power of suggestion. Like many things, ritual magic can be used for good or evil, depending on the practitioner and his, or her, intentions. However, there is a definitely detrimental element that has appeared and grown in modern witchcraft during the last two decades and that is the use of illegally obtained narcotics in rituals. The magicians of the middle ages functioned as druggists—despensing substances for healing, love potions, and even poisons for dispatching enemies—and they also used drugs in their ceremonies, including one group of chemicals referred to as "flying ointments." These ointments gave the user the illusion of flight. The active ingredients in these potions were belladonna, henbane, and other plant extracts of the nightshade family. Much of what was recorded about witches' ceremonies during the Inquisition may actually be descriptions of drug-induced hallucinations. All of the nightshades are deadly poisons in large doses, and this may account for the fact that they are seldom used in modern ritual magic to create visions. However, the pharmaceutical industry has developed an entirely new group of chemicals, many just as deadly as the nightshades, which are used by many adepts to induce the proper "mood" for their ceremonies.

In spite of the television appearances of certain self-proclaimed witches, including Sybil Leek and Louise Huebner, most have remained extremely secretive. This

problem was compounded by the continuing cattle mutilations, which many investigators were blaming on occultists. Covens all over the country feared possible reprisal by angry farmers or ranchers. During the mutilations in Minnesota, I talked to several witches in the Minneapolis-St. Paul area about the possible involvement of a witchcraft cult in the crimes. Below I have reproduced one more or less typical conversation with a young woman who I will call "Roxanne." At the time, she was attending the University of Minnesota and practicing white witchcraft, or the "Craft" as she called it.

M.D.A.: How did you become a witch?

Roxanne: I'd always been interested in the Craft, ever since I was a small child. But there weren't any witches where I lived [A small town in southern Minnesota] so I really didn't become involved with a coven until I became a college student. The university has a lot of occult groups, and I just looked until I found the one that was right for me.

M.D.A.: Does your group hold regular magic rituals?

Roxanne: Yes. But I can't discuss particulars about the other witches or what happens in our ceremonies.

M.D.A.: Do you use drugs in your rituals?

Roxanne: No, never! It isn't necessary for anyone who has mastered the Craft.

M.D.A.: Are animals ever sacrificed in the rituals conducted by your group?

Roxanne: No! Witchcraft has nothing to do with animal

sacrifice. We worship nature and would never kill or mutilate any living creature. Blood and animal organs are only used by satanists, people who are trying to gain power with black magic.

M.D.A.: What would be the value of blood and animal organs in ritual magic?

Roxanne: Satanists believe that they can get more power out of the death of an animal than out of any other kind of ceremony. But they're wrong. Eventually, the forces they release will destroy them.

M.D.A.: Do you think they [the cattle mutilators] will be caught soon?

Roxanne: I hope so. If I were to go home now and tell the people in my town that I was a witch, I don't know what would happen.

IV

Along with the increased interest in witchcraft, there has been a widespread resurgence in satanism in the United States. Unassociated devil-cults have sprung up with such rapidity that it is impossible to give an educated guess as to the combined membership of all the groups. The best known cult is the Church of Satan, in San Francisco, that once claimed an excess of 7,000 members living all over the world. The Chuch of Satan, however, is not a very diabolical group. The cult's high priest, Anton Szandor LaVey, professes not to believe in the devil as an existing, supernatural entity, and claims to use ritual magic only as a form of psychodrama, a method of

releasing all of the inhibitions and guilt feelings created by puritanical Christianity. LaVey is always emphatic when denying that members of his cult are involved in any type of crime.

In addition to the larger groups, there are innumerable smaller, independent cults consisting of a single high priest and a little congregation. These groups tend to be less stable, and are often involved in criminal acts ranging from drug abuse to murder. They are very difficult to investigate, not only because they are highly secretive, but because old cults are constantly breaking up and new ones being formed.

In the 1960's, Great Britain experienced a rash of satanism-related animal sacrifices and vandalism. In Bedfordshire, during 1963, the remains of a woman were removed from a grave in a church cemetery and placed on the church altar. The perpetrators, apparently, were interrupted and fled before they could begin their ceremony. The following year, a Presbyterian minister in Ayrshire, Scotland, discovered evidence that Black Masses were being held in the ruins of a seventeeth-century church. In August of 1964, another church ruin, this one near Guilford, was the scene of satanic rituals. On a crude alter were found two sheep's hearts, each pierced by a wooden stake.

In 1966, a previously "unknown" religious cult, calling itself the "Seekers of Mercy," made worldwide headlines from its lair in Switzerland. Swiss police, investigating the sudden death of a young female member of the cult, discovered a torture chamber in the group's building, where the girl had been sexually assaulted, then tied to an inverted cross and mercilessly whipped.

These incidents appear to be indicative of a trend. Everywhere in the world, strange religious cults are on the rise.

V

During the period when the rumors about the Sons of Satan were rampant, I managed to locate an individual who claimed to be a member of the cult. We met in an old, Victorian house decorated with ultra modern furniture. The cultist, himself, had shoulder-length hair and a jittery manner; around his neck hung an inverted pentagram. A portion of our conversation is reproduced below:

M.D.A.: Why did you become a satanist?

Satanist: Man! Satan is the god of pleasure. All you Christians are wrong; Hell isn't a place of fire and brimstone. It's one big party lasting for all eternity.

M.D.A.: Are the Sons of Satan responsible for the cattle mutilations?

Satanist: No way! It's Martians; they're taking the animal parts for study. Lots of people out there have seen their flying saucers.

M.D.A.: Why would creatures from outer space take only an eye, ear, or tongue?

Satanist: [A perplexed look on his face] Maybe they're going to clone cattle and only need small pieces.

In the milieu I was inhabiting at the time, filled with death, mutilation, UFOs, phantom aircraft, witches, and satanists, his explanation seemed almost acceptable. Almost.

PART TWO:

Bloodsport

CHAPTER 6

I

Early in February of 1975, a series of animal mutilations began in the state of Oklahoma. One of the best investigated cases occurred about 12 miles southwest of the city of Atoka, on a ranch belonging to Bob Brown. The dead cow had been drained of blood through a triangular-shaped cut on its neck. The udders and tongue had been cleanly severed and removed. There was no blood on the ground, even though the cow's left shoulder blade had been cut out and taken from the scene. The only evidence to suggest that any strangers were in the area came from another rancher who lived several miles west of the death site. On the night the mutilation occurred, he heard a "strange whooshing noise" outside in the darkness. Dr. Kenneth Bell, the examining veterinarian, told newsmen, "Whoever did it had to have had some

very fine instruments."

Sheriff Cecil Parker examined the scene and discovered the top branches on several nearby trees had been broken off and a few bushes near the carcass exhibited broken limbs. Incredibly, a piece of rusted barbed wire was found hanging twenty feet above the ground in a tree. "I don't know how it got up there," Sheriff Parker remarked. "I can't begin to comprehend what did this."

After nine mutilations had been reported, Oklahoma Governor David Boren announced on February 22nd that a special task force would be assembled to investigate the continuing crimes. "We want to utilize the available expertise of all appropriate departments and agencies to resolve this thing," he said, reassuringly. On March 3, 1975, the task force issued a report after investigating 26 possible mutilations. The cattle, according to the report, had all died of natural causes. "It is the opinion of the task force members that the human involvement can be attributed to individuals attempting to get in on a fad or young people dissecting dead carcasses for biological or experimental purposes." Beyond this, the report appeared to be an attempt by officials to calm worried farmers and ranchers with unsubstantiated predictions, such as, "We are of the opinion that the human involvement is a fad generated by publicity and is only temporary." The task force completely ignored the fact that several residents in the affected areas had reported sighting UFOs, while a few others had observed strange creatures that resembled gorillas traipsing across the countryside.

II

Between June and September of 1975, Leon Broughton had 16 sheep die on his ranch near Hamilton, Texas,

under the most macrabre circumstances imaginable. The dead animal's remains consisted only of intact skeletons; all of the hide, meat, and internal organs had been neatly removed.

These were not the only —or even the first—cattle mutilations in the Lone Star state. On November 13, 1974, three mutilated animals were found in different Texas communities. The first, a 600-pound bull, was discovered in a pasture about five miles south of Olney, in Young County. A hole had been cut in the animal's stomach and the reproductive organs had been removed. Some of the animal parts were missing from the scene, but most were left aligned in a neat row near the carcass. A four-inch-wide area around the stomach wound appeared to have been burned, but the hair on this section of hide was not even singed.

The bull's owner, J.R. Allison, showed the remains to David Hancock, a game warden, and a deputy sheriff on the same day the animal was found, and they noticed that the carcass was deteriorating rapidly. The next Friday, Allison returned to the site with a newspaper reporter, only to discover that the remains had vanished. There were no footprints or vehicle tracks in the area and the gate to the pasture had been locked during the intervening days. "I hadn't been back since the day after we found him," Allison remarked. "It kind of scares you when you think they came back and got him."

One day in February of 1975, Police Chief Caggie Evans, of Kaufman, Texas, and his son went looking for their missing cow. "She was sitting there, dead," Evans said after finding her remains of the five-year-old animal. "You know cows don't sit down to die like that. Her sex organs were cut out; her lips and tongue were gone."

A veterinarian examined the carcass and determined that it contained no blood. "And there was no blood

around the cow," Chief Evans remarked. "It was like they used a suction device to get the blood out." Days afterwards, there was no sign that coyotes or other scavengers had touched the remains. Throughout February, residents living in the Dallas area, which is about 25 miles from the town of Kaufman, reported sighting UFOs; they were usually described as being yellowish-orange balls of light with a smaller, flashing white light.

On February 11, 1975, Sam V. Snell, a San Antonio real estate investor, stumbled upon the expertly skinned carcass of a female dog hanging by its hind legs from a barbed wire fence. The animal's sex organs had been removed and its blood drained. "I observed the area to see if weeds were trampled and found they were not," Snell explained. "It could have been, frankly, that the animal was skinned somewhere else and then the carcass dropped, because there was no sign anywhere of blood in the weeds, and no sign of any puncture or abrasions of any kind on the animal except its vagina was removed."

"I've lived on the farm all my life and I've skinned squirrels and rabbits myself and I guarantee you, [the mutilators] can skin an animal better than I can and I've skinned animals all my life."

A few weeks later, a mutilated calf was found in a pasture near Copperas Cove, Texas. The female genitals had been removed and the blood had been drained from the carcass. There was no blood at all on the ground, but the animal did have some dried blood on its head that had come from the left ear. Several lawmen who examined the remains concluded that it looked as if the calf had suffered brain hemorrhage. Deputy Sheriff Walsh, of Coryell County, exclaimed, "I have been around here for a long time and I have never seen anything like this."

Texas Department of Public Safety officials, who also

examined the mutilation site, found a strange pattern of marks all aound the dead animal. Apparently, the weeds had been pressed into the ground by a powerful blast of wind from above, creating leaf-shaped marks in concentric circles. In an open field about 40 yards from the dead calf, another area nearly 30 feet in diameter was covered with the same markings.

These investigators suggested to a group of newspaper and television reporters that some type of aircraft hovering over the site could have caused the unusual pattern. A short time later, a reporter from the KCEN television station near Eddy, Texas, found out that residents in Copperas Cove and nearby Killeen had observed a yellowish-orange light hovering over farm land on the same night the mutilation occurred. One group of witnesses claimed that intermittently shafts of bluish-white light could be seen leaving the UFO and striking the ground.

On March 10, 1975, Darwood Marshall asked the local sheriff to investigate a dead heifer on his farm near the small town of Whiteface, Texas. Sheriff Richards, of Cochran County, went to look at the animal, which was lying within a 30 foot circle of crushed vegetation. The heifer's head, incredibly, was twisted straight up into the air; the tongue and genitals were missing, the bottom jaw had been cut back, the navel had been cut out in a round circle. Once again, there was no blood in evidence.

About a quarter mile to the west was another similar circle; here, newly-sprouted wheat had been burned away. Marshall told Sheriff Richards that he had pulled another dead animal, this one a steer, out of this second circle several days earlier. UFOs had been sighted in the surrounding area for weeks and Sheriff Richards, who was aware of the theory that the mutilators were aliens piloting spacecraft, checked the death site for radiation with a

geiger counter. The check for radiation was positive, so he contacted Reese Air Force Base and arranged for a professional check of the area. After completing their study, the Air Force team told Sheriff Richards that the radiation level was only "half of one percent" above normal at the mutilation site, and not sufficient to cause harm.

"What I want to know," Sheriff Richards wrote in his report, "is how did it get there in the first place? I have had reports of UFOs in this area but have not seen any myself. The people who have been reporting this all tell the same story. (The UFO) is about as wide as a two-lane highway, round, and looks the color of the sun when it is going down and has a blue glow around it. I have watched the news and the papers and when these people see this thing, in two or three days, we hear about some cows that have been mutilated. I don't know what is doing this, but it sure has got everyone around here uptight..."

III

During February of 1975, autopsies were performed on a group of mutilated cattle by veterinarians in Fort Worth, Texas. Nicotine, which is used as a sedative in tranquilizer guns, was discovered in several of the animals studied. Harold C. Palmer, a manufacturer of this type of weapon, commented, "Nicotine was the first thing that would stop a large animal. It begins working within minutes and it's expelled from the body within 18 hours." This finding appeared to support the devil-cult theory, but other autopsies were less reassuring. Around the end of 1975, two veterinarians from the Mission, Texas area, Drs. Cary Couch and M. Fish, examined a female calf only six hours after it was found dead and missing one eye and its tongue. The animal had left no blood at the mutilation site, but bled freely during the autopsy. The doctors could

offer no explanation and concluded that the animal had been mutilated by some method unknown to them.

Local sheriff's departments throughout the Lone Star state were now working on the cattle mutilation case in conjunction with the Texas Rangers. Every lead was being pursued, every clue examined, but it was becoming painfully obvious that the entire law enforcement establishment was powerless to stop the terror in the countryside.

CHAPTER 7

I

In May of 1975, the cattle mutilation mystery moved into Colorado. Local police, sheriffs, and newspapermen were called upon to investigate the crimes, but not one was successful in apprehending the perpetrators, or even explaining the methods used in the mutilations. Once again, UFOs and phantom aircraft were cruising the skies, immune to every attempt at identification. On May 29, 1975, rancher Daryl Evans found the remains of one of his cows, which apparently had died and been mutilated during a snowstorm. As usual, the cutting had been done with surgical precision and bleeding was mysteriously absent. Evans reported spotting a helicopter flying near the mutilation site on the night of the incident.

By November, ranchers in the area around Kiowa, Colorado, had discovered 72 head of cattle, along with a few horses and pigs, dead under bizarre circumstances and missing ears, eyes, sex organs, and other parts. Many of the mutilated animals exhibited a cleanly cut circle about a foot wide around the rectum or udders, or a narrow strip

of flesh removed from between the hind quarters. Elbert County Sheriff George Yarnell examined many of the dead cattle, but was unable to offer any indication of who—or what—might be responsible. Other authorities, who were aware of the continuing reports of phantom helicopters, assumed that they were seeking an airborne devil-cult, which employed poison darts and suction pumps in its deadly excursions.

"It's the biggest challenge of my career," explained Sheriff Yarnell. "We've exhausted everything we have on this thing and so far we've come up with absolutely nothing."

During this period, Sheriff Yarnell was receiving several reports a week of lights flickering in the sky over range land. But there were no solid leads, only numerous sightings of UFOs, helicopters, and small planes flying low at night across the countryside, and a few stories of drivers on lonely roads being momentarily pinpointed by searchlights in the sky.

In August of 1975, the *Denver Post* noted that 132 confirmed cattle mutilations had occurred in Colorado, several of which had been investigated by Sheriff W.L. McDonald of Washington County. Sheriff McDonald told reporters that he had to use a four-wheel drive vehicle to reach one mutilated heifer that was found in a pond near the town of Akron. All of the evidence at the scene suggested that the animal had been dropped into the pond from a height of several feet.

Red Fenwick, a columnist for the *Denver Post*, wrote of one case in which a full-grown bull was apparently killed and then dropped from a height great enough to break all four of the creature's legs. In another mutilation, also investigated by Fenwick, the dead animal was discovered literally surrounded by a sea of mud. There were cattle hoofprints from the dead animal in the mud, but no

human prints or vehicle tracks.

As had happened in Kansas, rural citizens began arming themselves, and ranchers could often be seen carrying guns while checking their grazing lands. Senator Floyd Haskell requested the FBI to launch a full-scale investigation, in addition to assisting local sheriffs, but the Bureau refused claiming jurisdictional limitations. Concerned cattlemen's organizations offered a total of $40,000 in rewards, but not one penny was given out. Then, there were more UFO sightings, and the extraterrestrial theory seemed, for a short time, to take precedence over the devil-cult theory.

One Colorado-based UFO study group publicly alleged that an investigation of the magnetic lines of force around the earth had shown that an area of magnetic disturbance existed in the state. Assuming that UFOs were magnetically propelled spacecraft, the group claimed that an alien vessel's crew would naturally be interested in exploring magnetic aberrations. Other unexplained evidence was also seen as proof of unearthly intervention; the fact that scavengers would usually avoid the mutilated carcasses suggested that the remains had picked up an alien "scent." In the following weeks, Colorado newspapers carried even more stories of strange lights in the sky on nights that cattle were killed and mutilated.

Then an event occurred that reversed the direction of speculation. During September of 1975, the unmarked helicopter supposedly used by the devil-cult was photographed. The Teller County Sheriff's Office released copies of a picture showing what appeared to be a dark-colored Hughes 500 helicopter hovering near a cluster of trees, with, apparently, a human figure standing in the aircraft's doorway. The Hughes 500 is a long-range helicopter with considerable lifting capacity. After the photograph was published in several newspapers, a

helicopter pilot, who was not involved in investigating the cattle mutilations, told reporters that he had chased an unidentified Hughes 500 near Rush, Colorado. He was flying late at night, and had been requested to check out a radar contact made by a local airport. He made five passes over the area before spotting the phantom craft because it was flying without lights. "Up until that time," he said later, "I hadn't believed the stories of helicopters, but now they make sense. There are places out there that you could hide a train."

Not everyone was willing to accept the existence of an airborne devil-cult, however. In January of 1976, the Colorado Bureau of Investigation (CBI) released the results of its probe into the mutilation mystery. After studying 200 of the reported cases, the CBI announced that only one mutilation could definitely be attributed to human activities. The other cases, the Bureau felt, were the result of scavengers feeding and public hysteria. Most of the involved sheriffs and ranchers were angered by this blatant dismissal of their problem. Some called the CBI's report a "fairy tale," and pointed out that the Bureau had not visited a single mutilation site, relying, instead, on samples sent to their laboratory. Many of the victimized ranchers had 30 or 40 years experience on the range and felt they were better qualified to distinguish scavenger bites from knife cuts. At another time, the CBI's Carl Whiteside was quoted as saying there might be a 50 or 60 percent rate of actual mutilations among the reported cases in eastern Colorado.

"I've been here for seventy-nine years, and I guess I know the work of a coyote when I see one," explained Reuben Olson, who owns 1,280 acres in Colorado. "One of my neighors had a steer picked up right out of his corral and dropped five miles away before it was cut up. I've never heard of a coyote like that!"

II

Cattle mutilations began to occur frequently in Montana during June of 1975, and by the end of the year nearly 100 cases had been reported. Earlier in 1975, Captain Keith Wolverton, of the Cascade County sheriff's department, had investigated a case in which the dead animal exhibited sawtooth-shaped cuts, similar to those made by pinking shears. Another incident, also investigated by Captain Wolverton, involved burns. "We have one lab report that came in on a very fresh cow—within 23 hours of its death," he revealed. "We got the analysis back and it said that the edges of the lips had been serrated and burned."

Unidentified helicopters and UFOs also began appearing in Montana skies, and local sheriffs quickly assembled over 100 sighting reports. Ranchers were also reporting strange noises in the night, and ape-like creatures seen prowling the desolate countryside.

Early on the morning of October 3, 1975, Raymond "Spud" Jones, who owns a ranch near Newcastle, Wyoming, awoke to a sound that he described as "a high pitched whine, like a jet turbine starting." Three days later, he came across the carcass of an 850-pound heifer lying in a grassy meadow. The animal's anus, genitals, and nipples had been cleanly severed, while no blood, footprints, or vehicle tracks were in evidence around the carcass. The right ear had been gouged out, apparently by a sharp object, which had cut 2 inches into the skull. Beginning about 10 yards from the animal's remains was a series of mysterious yellow circles, about 2 feet in diameter, that ended nearly 300 yards from the mutilation site. Jones immediately contacted Sheriff Willis Larson, who checked the area with a geiger counter, but failed to find any unusually high radiation.

The following day, Sheriff Larson drove down to

Cheyenne and delivered specimens from the mutilation to the State Attorney General's crime laboratory. Shortly after returning to his office, Sheriff Larson received a telephone call from a woman who wanted to report that an unmarked helicopter was presently hovering over an area northwest of Newcastle. After checking with the local airport, which told him none of their aircraft were anywhere near that location, Sheriff Larson raced to a ridge where he could view the site.

"I reached the top of the ridge and saw the object to the west, near Highway 85 North," he later told mark Willoughby of the *Laramie Branding Iron*. "It was making sudden, jerky 'Z' movements, very fast, I thought. I called my wife and asked her to call (John) Bockman to look at it." He could see no rotor blades on the strange object.

John Bockman, who managed the local airport, was already watching the object from the tower, where he was able to see it after it descended and passed from Sheriff Larson's view.

"I called for a special deputy to take my position and dispatched another deputy to the south so we could bracket the object in a triangle," Sheriff Larson explained. "I then went to the airport. The mail plane was landing at the airport just as I arrived. Bockman pointed the object out to me. Thirty seconds later it went up and disappeared, just like shutting out a light."

"Later, as we were returning to town, a sudden bright flash lit the sky, like a flashbulb."

Later that night, Sheriff Larson received another phone call from the woman who had first sighted the wedge-shaped object. The UFO had returned.

"I went out to check on it again," Sheriff Larson continued, "and the sky was split by five sudden flashes, in very quick succession, centered in the northeast."

During the next several hours, many residents in the

area would see a glowing light in the eastern sky, while a group of campers would watch strange lights rising over a clusters of trees and a motorist would spot brilliant flashes in the night sky.

"I don't know what to think anymore," concluded Sheriff Larson.

III

During October of 1975, the mutilations returned to the Midwest. Newspapers near Prairie du Chien, Wisconsin, reported that several cattle had been killed and mutilated in the same field. One investigator suggested that a gas grenade was used to tranquilize the animals. In December, six mutilated cows were discovered on one farm in Iowa. Apparently, the first animal had died six weeks before the last cow, and the last cow had died only hours before the crimes were discovered. Local police began investigating the deaths, and sent samples from the freshest carcass to the Iowa State University School of Veterinary Medicine for analysis. A few hours after the crimes were discovered, the animals' owner saw a UFO in the eastern sky. The mysterious object hovered in the distance for several hours, shooting beams of light at the ground, before disappearing as the sun came up. On the same day, a woman in Sioux City, Iowa, also reported seeing an identical aerial light.

IV

The full extent of UFO activity in 1975 would not have been known, expect for a "Leak" from a Pentagon source. That tip led to a "freedom of information" lawsuit by Ground Saucer Watch, a civilian UFO organization, and the *Washington Post*, which resulted in the CIA turning over almost 900 pages of documents related to its

monitoring of UFO reports since the 1950's, along with documents from the Air Force and NORAD.

The documents provide detailed accounts of UFO sightings made during the last days of October and the first two weeks of November, 1975, near Loring Air Force Base in Maine, Wurtsmith AFB in Michigan, and Malmstrom AFB in Montana. At these and other missile-launching sites in the northern United States, military personnel observed strange objects hovering over nuclear weapon storage areas, and in some cases, approaching as close as 10 feet from missile silos, before flying off.

The documents describe the objects as UFOs in some cases and helicopters in others, with the objects in the latter group of cases reported to have emitted sounds similar to helicopter noise. In one encounter, which took place on November 7th, Captain Thomas O'Brien, who had just left his duty station as a missile launch officer, saw an aircraft resembling a helicopter flying toward the silo area. The object had two red and white lights on the front, a white light on the bottom, and another on the rear. It was late at night, and the darkness prevented the officer from seeing any markings on the craft, if any existed. The object hovered over the silo area for about one minute, and then flew off. Two other nearby missile facilities reported moving lights in the sky during the same evening, but no unusual sounds were heard on the ground.

On October 30th and 31st, an unidentified helicopter flew over Wurtsmith AFB and hovered over weapons-storage bunkers. The crew of a KC-135 tanker plane flying nearby spotted the object as it left the base and attempted to give chase, but the mysterious visitor proved to be much faster than their aircraft.

Activity logs prepared by officers of the North American Air Defense Command revealed that witnesses at another unnamed missile facility saw an unidentified

helicopter "issuing a black object from (itself), tubular in shape." Throughout this incident, which took place at the beginning of November, standard radar surveillance provided no clues as to the origin of the object.

Tom Zechel, an investigator for Ground Saucer Watch, complained, "We've had to pry loose every item of information we have. I am inclined to believe the government doesn't know any more about UFOs than we do , but if UFOs are what they say—nothing—why don't they open their files totally?"

CHAPTER 8

I

By the spring of 1976, cattle mutilations were occurring frequently in Kansas, Nebraska, Iowa, Colorado, Illinois, South Dakota, Minnesota, Wisconsin, Louisiana, Alabama, Mississippi, Oklahoma, Texas, and New Mexico. More than half a dozen other states were reporting isolated incidents.

In New Mexico, where the crimes were accompanied by the usual UFO and phantom helicopter sightings, a group of ranchers asked both State and Federal governments for assistance in locating the home base of a particularly ubiquitous unmarked helicopter that was operating in the northeastern section of the state. The Federal Aviation Administration in Albuquerque, began checking airfields in New Mexico and its neighboring states, but this investigation proved fruitless. Meanwhile, ranchers in Union and Quay Counties had set up a network of two-way radios to relay phantom helicopter sighting reports to the New Mexico National Guard base at Clayton Airport. Once notified, National Guard aircraft would attempt to chase down the intruder, but always without success.

The New Mexico Livestock Board began collecting and distributing information on cattle mutilations through a special center located in Reno, Nevada. The Board urged victimized farmers and ranchers to immediately notify a livestock inspector after discovering a mutilated animal. The center was eventually processing reports from most of the United States and two Canadian provinces.

II

The following year, 1977, proved to be no better besieged farmers and ranchers. During the first week of March, a Holstein cow was found dead and mutilated in a pasture just a few miles from Forth Worth, Texas; the incident was another example of the classic pattern and received widespread attention in the press. The animal's sex organs and one teat had been severed and removed from the site; there were no vehicle tracks or footprints; and, also, there were no other livestock prints near the carcass, indictating that the rest of the herd would not approach the mutilated animal.

"This is really odd," said Troy McCarley, the Holstein's owner. "There should have been a tremendous amount of blood, but there were no signs the cow bled that much."

"She had struggled some because her horns made an imprint in the ground. She didn't struggle much, though. It looked like she was pretty well tranquilized or dead before she hit the ground," McCarley explained.

"The only thing I noticed around the cow were two fresh shotgun shell casings," he said. "I turned the cow over, but I couldn't find any place where she had been shot."

"It has me buffaloed," McCarley concluded. "I'd read about it, but I've never seen anything like it in my life. It seems like such a waste for someone to destroy an animal

for something that just doesn't make any sense."

During 1977, a strange creature was reported roaming the southwestern area of Jasper County in Mississippi. Gene Clark, editor of the *Jasper County News*, joined the local sheriff's department in studying the creature's activities, which included eating the ears off hogs. The incidents began in January, when a hog belonging to Joseph Dickson of the Nazarene community was attacked. The ears had been bitten off the hog so cleanly, Clark wrote, that it looked as if they had been cut off with scissors. Another hog was attacked in the pen the following night, and a third was attacked two nights later. The next night, Dickson saw the creature in his hog pen, he told Clark. The strange animal jumped the fence after attacking a fourth hog.

Dickson described the creature as being bigger than a German shepherd, and able to jump further than any dog. Three of the hogs died after being attacked, and the fourth had to be destroyed.

One week later, the ears were pulled off a 300-pound sow at a farm belonging to Calvin Martin. After hearing about the incident, Clark went to Martin's farm and found that the creature had dropped one of the sow's ears in the pen. "The ear was pulled out by the roots," Clark explained. "You could put it back in the hole it came from."

On the same night, a farmer living in Blue Mountain community reported that his hound dog attacked the mysterious creature. The dog's front legs were badly ripped during the fight, and one leg later had to be amputated.

Several other citizens in the area have reported shooting at the strange creature, but apparently no one has hit it. And many farmers in that section of Jasper County were keeping lights burning all night in hog pens and barnyards.

Just in case.

The October 5, 1977, death of a two-year-old heifer near Sterlings, Colorado, brought to 85 the number of confirmed cattle mutilations in Logan County since August of 1975. County Sheriff Harry "Tex" Graves arrived at the mutilation site only hours after the 800-pound animal had died. The heifer's left eye, left ear, half of its tongue, upper left lip, part of its nose and three teats from the udder were severed with surgical precision and taken from the scene.

"Generally, the mutilators remove the rectal area, and sometimes the reproductive organs, but these were not touched," Graves explained. "The blood was still in the critter's body—an unusual situation since the mutilators generally remove all the blood from the animal."

Sheriff Graves also revealed that at about the same time the heifer was killed there were two separate reports of large brilliant lights in the night sky that suddenly appeared and reportedly followed four residents of Logan County.

Toward the end of October, a newborn calf was mutilated on a farm northeast of Waterloo, Iowa. The carcass was found on a lane leading to a pasture owned by Mrs. Polly Mills and her son Steven. The calf was apparently born there during the previous night, and according to sheriff's deputies, who examined the remains, may have been stillborn. The nose and jaw had been cut away and a one-foot-square patch of hide removed from the animal. The deputies also discovered two puncture wounds in one of the calf's rear hoofs.

Mrs. Mills heard nothing unusual outside during the night that the animal was mutilated. "It's a frightening thing," she said.

A couple of days later, a nine-month-old bull belonging to Raymond Whittle, of Fairfax, Iowa, was found dead

and mutilated. Linn County sheriff's deputies, who examined the animal, reported that the tongue, tail, testicles, and rectum had been cut out. The officers speculated that the mutilators were either a group of pranksters or a satanic cult, although no arrests were were ever made.

III

During the last half of 1977, there was a rash of cattle mutilations near the small town of Peculiar, Missouri. The first group of animals to die were never examined by a veterinarian, so some lawmen were skeptical about the nature of the incidents. "We have never had one freshly killed so we can go and examine it or get a veterinarian right out there, so this is our problem," explained Sheriff Bill E. Gough, of Cass County.

But three of the victimized farmers had no doubts. Raymond R. Welch, who lives just a mile-and-a-mile from Peculiar, found a five-year-old Black Angus cow dead on September 25, 1977. He described the left ear as being "cut off smooth and they just done an excellent job."

"They must've taken the blood out of her, because there wasn't any blood around her at all," he explained. Several days later, scavengers had still not touched the animal.

John D. Rice, a part-time farmer who lives a short distance southwest of Peculiar, lost a five-month-old steer to the mutilators during the second week in October. The only clue in this case was a sapling, about three inches in diameter, that had been broken at the base and was found lying on the animal's neck.

The third farmer, Harold Cowger, who lives about one mile south of Peculiar, discovered a dead female calf at the

beginning of October, and buried the animal with a bulldozer without thinking about the strange circumstances: the tongue was missing and the left ear had been cut off. "I don't know. I really wasn't paying attention to it then," Cowger explained. Only after the calf was buried did he realize "that it looked a little suspicious."

By the beginning of 1978, the cattle mutilations had moved into the area around Elsberry, Missouri. The incidents in Elsberry, a community of about 14,000 citizens located fifty miles north of St. Louis, were accompanied by reports of mysterious lights in the sky. Sam Mayes and Henry Hagemeier discovered mutilated animals on their farms during a weekend in the middle of June, and Police Chief John Livengood told reporters that he believed the crime was related to the UFO sighting which also occurred during that weekend. Water Superintendent Manfound Hammond spotted a large, bright object "shaped like two saucers placed upside down on each other "hovering over a wooded section southeast of Elsberry about 10:45 PM on Sunday.

"It was like something right out of a Buck Rogers comic strip," Hammond exclaimed. "It wasn't an airplane, an it wasn't a balloon; it wasn't like anything I'd ever seen." Hammond reported the sighting to police, and by Monday afternoon, Chief Livengood had received about half a dozen similar reports. Another farmer, who stumbled across a mutilated heifer on June 8, 1978, reported sighting strange lights in the sky near his property on June 10th, 11th, and 12th.

"Saturday morning I found the calf," Sam Mayes began. "I wasn't expecting what I saw. At first I didn't notice the cuttings. They were about 14 inches in diameter and looked they like they had been done with an extra sharp knife."

"There was no blood and I thought that was strange,"

Mayes continued. "I've been farming for 35 years and I've never seen anything like it. You can't tell me it was done by any four-legged varmint. It was unnatural. I personally don't believe in UFOs or creatures from space; I feel it was done by some cult or devil-worshippers."

Margaret Ann Watts, the editor of the weekly *Elsberry Democrat*, was one of the witnesses who saw the UFO. "We have had several sightings of lights around here for some time," she said. "Last Tuesday night some friends of mine and myself were riding around the farm roads and we saw this strange orange glow in the sky. Some young men nearby were watching it through binoculars. It finally just disappeared."

Ms. Watts went on to discuss another baffling aspect of the cattle mutilations near Elsberry. "Around several of the carcasses, some dead flies were found "glued" to nearby tree branches. They seem to have been melted onto the branches. Entomologists can't explain it. Some people from the University of Missouri came down here last night and took them back to the lab to study them."

Dr. William Newberry, a veterinarian and former coroner, examined the dead cattle and concluded that they died of natural causes. "Scavengers, wild dogs, or coyotes chewed on the animals," he claimed, "going for the soft tissues. The lack of blood was probably caused by gravity, the blood descending into the lower part of the animal's body and coagulating. The scissor-like teeth of the coyotes could cause the wounds to appear to have been surgically caused."

Mrs. Mary Hagemeier, the wife of the other victimized farmer, disagreed. "There is no way varmints could have gotten to them [the mutilated animals]" she stated, adding that the carcasses were still lying where they were found and that "nothing goes near them."

"If it was animals, they would return to feed. They

haven't," she noted. "I don't know what did it, but we'd sure like to know." Mrs. Hagemeier also said that her son had told her he saw "a bright, red-orange light making a half circle around the farm" on the night before the mutilated animals were discovered. "It made no noise and it was something he had never seen before."

"I think it has to be someone that knows how to handle a sharp instrument," she said, explaining that "UFO doesn't necessarily mean extraterrestrial beings. It could be our government or another. Or it could be a cult group, but I doubt that. I don't think they could do it so secretly without getting caught."

Other residents of Elsberry had less conventional theories. About six years before these events, the citizens of nearby Louisiana, Missouri, reported seeing a strange, humanoid, fur covered and foul smelling creature prowling the woods and farm lands. Because of its great size and stench, the creature was nicknamed Mo-Mo, short for "Missouri Monster." Mo-Mo reportedly attacked or carried off several domestic animals during his first appearance, and some people in Elsberry were wondering if he had returned.

In August of 1978, three farmers near Dixon, Missouri, and another near Iberia, lost cattle to the phantom mutilators. As usual, various parts of the carcasses were cut out and removed from the sites, and most of the blood was drained from the remains. The same rumors about the existence of a devil-cult began circulating throughout the area. At this point, Deputy Sheriff Gene Bracy, of Maries County, offered some "inside" information to the local newspaper *The Dixon Pilot*. The cult, according to the October 19, 1978 edition of the paper, that supposedly was operating in the area, allegedly followed the preachings contained in a paperback book available on most newsstands—*The Satanic Bible* by Anton Szandor

LaVey. According to the *Pilot*, Deputy Bracy said he had read parts of the book describing animal sacrifices, which approximated the style of the mutilations in Maries County. The article went on to relay the unsubstantiated rumor that the cult would make a human sacrifice soon, probably around Halloween. The newspaper also quoted Deputy Bracy as saying the human sacrifice element had evolved from the preachings in *The Satanic Bible*; according to the book, the article stated, the ultimate sacrifice is a thirteen-year-old unbaptized girl.

In fact, none of this is true. There are no rituals described in *The Satanic Bible* that involve human—or animal—sacrifice, and LaVey specifically rejects the use of animals and babies in such ceremonies at one point in his book.

The rumor about a future child sacrifice created considerable panic in the rural community around Dixon. Some area school superintendents actually sent notes home with students warning of the predicted event. This action angered many parents, who felt nothing had been accomplished except scaring the children. In the following weeks, the cattle mutilations would continue unabated, but the predicted human sacrifice would not take place.

IV

On April 10, 1978, two corrections officers at the Goochland state prison farm in Virginia witnessed the nocturnal visit of a UFO. Officer Ben Eldridge was on stake-out, waiting for whoever—or whatever—had killed and mutilated eight cows on the farm during the previous three weeks. The animals had been found without signs of a mortal wound and missing teats and ears. About 5:15 AM, Officer Eldridge was standing near the farm's hay barn watching a herd of Black Angus and Whiteface cattle

in a grazing field. Suddenly, he sensed something was behind him and he glanced over his right shoulder.

"Here the thing was," he recalled later, "pointed directly at me. It was round, red, and real bright, about 10 to 12 feet long, probably. It really scared me when I first saw it." The object appeared to be made of silver-colored metal, was completely silent, and was surrounded by a red glow. The UFO was moving rapidly toward Officer Eldridge and, for a moment, he thought he would have to run to escape being hit by it, "but then, in a few seconds, it was going sideways. There was no noise at all. It was level, slow, smooth. The farther away it got, the smaller it got." The UFO, which now displayed a flaming tail, moved quickly away and vanished over a wooden area.

At the same time, Corporal R. W. Sluss was working the tower shift at the prison complex two miles away. He also saw the UFO and had it in view a little longer than Officer Eldridge. The following day, he filed a report stating that he had witnessed, "an object in the atmosphere. It appeared from the northeast direction and disappeared in a southwestern direction."

"At first sight," his report continued, "I knew it was a large object. It looked like a cloud of steam in front of it and was shooting red sparks behind it. Then it burst in a white light, blinding me. It then broke up into large chunks forming a long brilliant tail of white, light blue, and light green light. The tail disappeared fast but the main body continued on its horizontal flight disappearing low on the southwest horizon. At the time it disappeared it was breaking dawn and the object appeared to be approximately five miles away from me and about 600 feet off the ground."

"The object seemed rather slow to be a meteorite," his report continued, "but was traveling faster than any plane. It did not seem to be at great height."

No dead cows were found that night, and the authorities at the prison assumed that would be the end of it. They were wrong. The day after the sightings by Officers Eldridge and Sluss, William Tyler, a sixteen year veteran of the force, saw a "big light, the size of a car light" in the sky. Officer Tyler reported watching the light for five minutes starting about 11:00 PM. "It looked like it was standing still," he explained. "Then all at once, it just disappeared. I made the remark, 'here comes another flying saucer' "

At the time of this incident, two members of a satanic cult that was under investigation for possible involvement in the cattle mutilations, were inmates at the Powhatan Corrections Center adjoining the prison farm. The Goochland animal deaths were assumed, by many law officers, to be the work of this group. Could the UFO's appearance have been an intentional act, devised to prove them wrong?

PART THREE:

The Search For Answers

CHAPTER 9

I

Throughout the research and writing of this book I have had to accept the frustration of knowing that this work could never be a complete and definitive history of what must be one of the strangest phenomena in the annals of history. I have tried to present what I judged to be the most documented, detailed, and pertinent cases, however, many incidents, which are of equal quality and importance, have been excluded simply to prevent the book from becoming unnecessarily repetitious.

My primary intention has been to present an accurate statement of the mystery, including the details, often excluded, which make all of the previously discussed explanations of the crimes untenable. Throughout my investigations, certain facts have remained indisputable. Since 1973, farmers, ranchers, and law enforcement officers from one end of the nation to the other have been confronted with frequent and bizarre cattle deaths and surgical mutilations. Despite total reward money now in excess of $50,000, the identities of the perpetrators have remained unknown. Accredited veterinarians have been

unable to explain many of the deaths, or account for how the animals are located and mutilated with such skill in total darkness. Dozens of state and Federal investigations, involving the efforts of literally hundreds of law enforcement officers, have proved unproductive.

Undeniably, there is evidence in some cases that does implicate certain pathological humans who are gathering animal organs for occult ceremonies, and no doubt, wolves, coyotes, and other scavengers are responsible for a few more incidents. But the vast majority of cases appear to be beyond explanation through conventional theories, and, perhaps, it is time we looked at the unconventional possibilities.

I am writing this book with the firm conviction that there exist around us many strange things that we are only beginning to become aware of and which orthodox science ignores because their very existence challenges our understanding of reality. However, I am not an indiscriminate believer in the extraordinary. I do not accept the validity of astrology, or pyramid power, or believe that our world is undergoing a massive invasion from outer space. What I will try to do is present a large body of anomalous data that goes far beyond the accepted physical sciences, and suggest the existence of a much greater reality.

I realize, of course, that no rational expose′ is going to have the slightest effect on the scientific community. If their theories and speculations continue to have survival value for our technological society, then these theories and speculations shall go on dominating our intellectual life, oblivious to any larger reality, and most of us will profit from it. However, if the postulations of modern science serve only to clutter the minds of men with mendacious dogma, then a dispassionate analysis could prove to be liberating, as well as educational.

Establishment scientists must dismiss all anomalous phenomena because they are necessarily threatened by the ramifications of a new cosmology on their livelihood. And yet, the average individual still searches beyond the materialistic point of view for answers to questions he often is unable even to articulate. The recent popularity explosion in occult philosophies is, more than likely, a symptom of modern man's dissatisfaction with materialism, both in the physical and mental aspects of his life.

II

No writer has ever had more fun mocking the arrogance of modern science and ridiculing the assumption that the universe is governed by fixed, inviolable natural laws, than Charles Fort. Surviving on a small inheritance, Fort spent much of his life in libraries collecting facts that could not be explained, or explained away, by modern science. Before his death in 1932, he had collected about 25,000 reports of impossibilities. In his four books, he recounted rains of frogs and periwinkles from the sky, disappearances of men and ships, sightings of UFOs and monsters, and the discoveries of stone wedges inside trees, ancient Roman coins in American Indian burial mounds, and bits of machinery inside of rocks that are untold millenniums in age. He gleefully accused scientists of fraud and deception, and science, itself, of being predicated on massive lies. In his book *Wild Talents*, Fort also reported isolated, unexplained incidents of cattle mutilations during the last century.

The scientific establishment responded in the only way it could; scientists everywhere ignored him. But from time to time, the scientists themselves, became witnesses to the impossible. For example, in 1947, a biologist named A.D.

Bajkov observed one of these "Fortean" events in Marksville, Louisiana, where he was carrying out field investigations for the Department of Wild Life and Fisheries. For one hour, fish fell from the sky over that town; hundreds of fish of different species were left littering yards, roofs, and streets all over the area. Dr. Bajkov eventually wrote a letter describing his experience to the prestigious journal *Science*, which printed it without comment in the April 22, 1949 issue.

Scientists have no explanation for these falls, but if pressed they usually argue that they are the result of tornado activity; frogs, fish, or whatever are picked up in one place and deposited in another by high-speed winds. This explanation is very unlikely since most reported falls have occurred out of a clear, calm sky. Moreover, there is often only a single species of frog or fish in these falls, rather than the mixture of creatures and debris that would result from the actions of a tornado. Even more significant is the fact that some things have fallen from the sky which could not possibly have been obtained and dropped by the wind, including blood and flesh. The most recent report I have of such an event is a rainfall of meat and blood which occurred over Sao Paulo, Brazil, in 1968. This brings the question to mind: could our phantom mutilators be collecting material to be rained down on us in the future?

Our world is apparently filled with unexplained vandalism. One common type occurs hundreds of times each year in small cemeteries. The caretaker will discover dozens of tombstones toppled over in a neat row. Police usually speculate that a gang of bored teenagers were responsible. But many of the tombstones involved are attached to their base with thick, iron rods, and it would have taken an automobile or tractor with heavy chains to pull them over. No vehicle tracks are ever found. After the

vandalism has been discovered, police usually stake-out the cemetery for weeks, but the perpetrators never return. Could the force responsible for this type of destruction also be responsible for the continuing cattle mutilations?

The likelihood that this kind of question would be asked by a law enforcement officer, at least publicly, is very slim. The pressure from the scientific establishment on anyone who wishes to express unorthodox views had greatly increased in recent years. "It's just amazing, this reversion to primitive credulity in the world's most technologically advanced country," complained Paul Kurtz, a philosophy professor at the State University of New York at Buffalo, who heads the Committee for the Scientific Investigation of Claims of the Paranormal. The Committee was formed in 1975 at Buffalo as an outgrowth of a petition by 186 scientists denouncing astrology as charlatanism; since then, the group has moved to suppress any belief it feels is unscientific. Among its members are reformed science fiction writer Isaac Asimov, astronomer Carl Sagan, who has found it financially opportune to express a belief in extraterrestrial life, and psychologist B.F. Skinner, who apparently dreams of turning human beings into robots. Recently the committee filed a lawsuit against the NBC television network because a 90-minute special, "Exploring the Unknown," was not skeptical enough of paranormal claims, in the members' view. "Their [NBC's] defense is that it's just entertainment," Dr. Kurtz explained. "But we find it insidious." The committee has expended little effort to investigate such phenomena as UFOs, relying instead on the reputations of its members to validate its arguments.

It would appear that the Inquisition has returned.

III

Anyone who has seriously investigated the cattle mutilation mystery has eventually found himself entangled in a web of confusing, ambiguous, and often contradictory data. Moreover, cattle are not the only animals found mutilated. A list of the perpetrator's victims would include horses and ponies, pigs, dogs, sheep, goats, chickens, deer, one llama, and one buffalo. Dorothy Aldridge reported, in the October 23, 1975 issue of the *Colorado Gazette Telegraph*, the death and mutilation of a buffalo within a caged area of the Cheyenne Mountain Zoo. The zoo's security procedures had been improved just prior to the incident, as a direct result of a series of cattle mutilations on surrounding ranches. Dan Davis, the zoo director, ordered the carcass skinned by the institution's veterinarians in an attempt to locate bruises, punctures, or marks of any kind. None were found, but the autopsy did discover one bizarre fact: the blood, which still was in the animal, was of a very thin, watery consistency, rather than coagulated as it should be in a dead animal. As usual, there were no human footprints, even though the carcass was in a dusty area covered with animal hoof prints.

Mutilated animals have been found hanging from fences, near farmhouses, on top of nearly inaccessible cliffs, transported to fields miles away, stuck in wells, lying near busy highways, strung up in trees by steel cable, and left near military bases. Others have been found in mud puddles, near to water and far from it; in one case, a mutilated animal was discovered under water. Some of the dead creatures are avoided by coyotes and other scavengers, while other carcasses are picked clean within a few days. In recent years, some mutiliated animals have been found with broken limbs, suggesting to some

investigators that they were dropped from considerable height.

One mutilated animal was found about two miles from the Air Force Academy. The 800-pound steer, according to a report by the El Paso County sheriff's office, "was lying on its right side in a pond. Its left shoulder, left leg and left eye were missing. A deputy observed that the steer was half submerged in the pond, facing south, with its right front hoof approximately one foot from the water's edge and its jaw approximately two feet from the water's edge." The report went on to say that the animal's "neck had been stretched or possibly broken, consistent with having been dropped into the pond from above."

Other cattle usually avoid approaching the remains of a mutilated animal. In several cases, it has been noticed that the mother of a mutilated calf will avoid its carcass. This is very strange, since a cow often stays near its dead calf for three or four days after the calf expires. Conversely, a calf will avoid its mutilated mother. And as previously stated, scavengers usually will not eat from a mutilated carcass.

Even more puzzling is the fact that there is seldom any blood remaining in a mutilated carcass, or on the ground nearby. It has been estimated that about 1800 cattle were killed and mutilated in 1975 alone. This figure would mean that 108,000 pints—or over 50 tons—of blood is missing. What could anyone want with such a cache?

With such questions to answer, it is easy to see why many sheriffs wish they had never begun investigating the mutilation mystery. And why the scavenger theory is often accepted by those who do not wish to look any further. It is more comforting to blame small, relatively harmless animals; and one's sense of reality can be preserved. Unfortunately, this attitude is of no value in dealing with the terror that is speading through the countryside.

The devil-cult hypothesis is second only to the scavenger theory in popularity among investigators of the mulilation mystery. But there are as many contradiction in the evidence supporting this hypothesis as there are in the proof for the scavenger theory. For example, on November 30, 1973, and again on January 8, 1974, a cow was found dead and mutilated in McPherson County, Kansas. In both cases, tracks from a four-wheel drive vehicle and human footprints were found in the snow near the mutilation site. However, the footprints discovered on November 30th ended abruptly, never approached the dead animal. And the two sets of footprints—actually snowshoe prints—found near the January 8th mutilation bypassed the carcass by a considerable distance. There is no indication in either incident that anyone approached the dead animals. Most devil-cult theorists explain this by suggesting that the satanists used cardboard mats—or plywood sheets, or some other flat-surfaced material—to walk on, avoiding the creation of footprints. However, in the two cases described above, and in many others, the dead animals were completely surrounded by snow and the mats should have made impressions in the surface. None were found. By the same logic, if the mutilators used a tranquilizer gun to subdue the cattle, as most devil-cult theorists suppose, why were puncture wounds—and traces of drugs—so seldom found during autopsies? This brings us to another question: could the satanists have performed the mutilations by being lowered by rope from a hovering helicopter to a point near the ground—but never touching it? I doubt if anyone could perform precision surgery while dangling at the end of a rope, especially in the down-draft from a hovering helicopter.

The helicopters which were, according to this theory, used to transport the cult members to mutilation sites, present another problem. A vast amount of money is required to maintain and operate a single helicopter, and a

vast fleet of these unmarked craft was spotted over the western United States. In fact, the mutilators have displayed more aircraft—not counting UFOs—than are owned by many small nations. In addition, maintaining a fleet of helicopters scattered across the country would require numerous landing bases, repair shops, and fuel depots. And yet, not a single landing spot that could be associated with this airborne cult has been discovered.

The motives of the phantom perpetrators are even more difficult to discern. Why would any group, even a devil-cult, waste the time and money—not to mention taking the risks of piloting helicopters close to the ground in the dark of night—just to gather animal parts that would be free at any meat packing plant in the nation?

The ability of the cultists themselves, to appear and vanish at will presents other problems. In August of 1976, the police at Lake Park, Minnesota, talked to a man who claimed that he had driven his car off the road and into a ditch in order to avoid hitting a group of about ten, white-robed individuals standing in the highway. Toward the end of that month, a series of cattle deaths in a farming community about 40 miles west of Fargo, North Dakota, was accompanied by sightings—near but never at mutilation sites—of figures dressed in white robes. In neither area were the police able to locate a single cultist.

On September 11, 1976, a 15-year-old boy in Kindred, North Dakota, confronted "a person dressed in white" standing near a local granary. "I just took off screaming and ran right into the house," the child exclaimed. "Mom locked the doors and dad got the shotgun. We shut off all the lights and called the police. Then we went upstairs to look out the window." In spite of an extensive search, the police found no trace of the hooded figure in white.

Back in early September of 1975, a forest-service employee sighted several people in hooded black robes walking along Cove Creek in Blaine County, Idaho. The

following day, several mutilated cattle were found in the surrounding vicinity, and the police began searching for the cultists. None could be found, as the animal mutilations continued. On October 9, 1975, a man was driving along U.S. Highway 95 in northern Idaho. About 3:30 AM, approximately 15 masked individuals walked across the road and locked arms, forming a human barricade. The man was able to turn his car around and escape, but incidents like these were increasing the panic among area residents. Shortly before Halloween, the *Teton Valley News* of Driggs, Idaho, printed the following warning: "Parents, please be sure you know where your children are at night and especially Halloween night. On Halloween night, with the happenings in our own area, it would be advisable to have the younger children home before dark and the older ones home immediately after the football game scheduled on that night."

Perhaps these hooded and masked figures never intended to capture a human being; perhaps they only wished to inspire terror throughout the state. If so, they succeeded.

IV

A great deal of contradictory—and possibly false—evidence has been discovered in communities afflicted with cattle mutilations. Captain Keith Wolverton of the Cascade County, Montana, sheriff's office, who has been mentioned several times before, was able to examine the site of what apparently had been an occult ceremony near the city of Butte. The site consisted of a fire pit surrounded by a circle of small rocks. Another circle of large rocks, 61 feet in circumference, surrounded the fire pit, and also enclosed a rectangular stone on which someone had scrawled, "ISIS favor us! Mother of moon,

lover of goodness." Isis is the ancient Egyptian goddess of fertility and the moon. Her symbol is the cow, and that animal was considered sacred by the followers of her cult. Why anyone attempting to practice this ancient religion today would kill and mutilate cattle is beyond comprehension. Unless the site was created solely to mislead.

On May 5, 1978, Little Rock's *Arkansas Gazette* reported that the apparently ritualistic slaying of several animals in Benton County was believed by police to be the work of a devil-cult. Lieutenant Don Rystrom, who had been investigating the crimes since April 8th, told the newspaper he was convinced that satanists were involved. The vital organs of a horse and several head of cattle had been cut out and stolen, and what appeared to be altars constructed of stone were found nearby. On the altars were animal skulls and candles; some of the skulls and stones were painted dark blue and a few were marked with magic symbols painted in white.

The police contacted Dr. Jerome Rose, an anthropologist at the University of Arkansas at Fayetteville, for help in their investigation. "We have told authorities that they have a group of people who are picking up books on witchcraft and are trying it out or they have a legitimate group practicing withcraft," Dr. Rose told the *Gazette*. "European witchcraft involved the worship of nature. Our Christian-oriented beliefs classify anything that uses magic as witchcraft. European witchcraft is pre-Christian and has remained underground during the Christianization of Europe."

"This is the time of maximum activities for such groups," Rose continued, referring to the vernal equinox. This event, which marks the coming of spring, is important to witches, "because that's the time when nature is waking up after sleeping all winter. [They] want

to encourage rebirth. They want trees to have lots of buds and women to be fertile." Dr. Rose explained the mutilations in terms of being imitative magic. "If the ritual was to produce communication, you'd use a tongue. It would vary depending on rituals."

My contacts within the witchcraft cult would disagree with the professor's explanation of imitative magic, and blame the killing and mutilation of cattle on satanists. In any event, the discovery of such sites this late in the history of strange cattle deaths raises more questions than it could possibly answer. Why have police and sheriffs been unable to locate any of the cultists who presumably built these ceremonial sites? Where are the bases and helicopters of the alleged devil-cult? And, most important of all, could all of this evidence have been planted to direct investigators away from other evidence that would explain all of the strange factors, rather than just creating more questions? That is the topic we will now probe.

CHAPTER 10

I

Beginning in January of 1978, the area around Dulce, New Mexico, which lies in the center of the Jicarilla Apache Indian Reservation, became a scene of continuing animal mutilation and growing terror. Manuel Gomez, who lives on a ranch not far from Dulce, lost his second animal to the phantom mutilators on the night of April 23, 1978. This one, a bull, had been killed less than 500 yards from the house where Gomez and his family were sleeping. The next morning, he looked out his bedroom window and saw the animal lying in the field. "I looked through my binoculars and saw the bull was dead," Gomez explained, "and when I went out there at 6:30 the carcass was still warm."

The animal was laying on a soft, dirt surface. The usual parts were missing from the carcass, and there were no footprints or vehicle tracks in the immediate vicinity. However, a short distance from the animal's remains were several groups of circular impressions in the ground: each imprint was about four inches in diameter, lying along a dirt road.

State Police Officer Gabe Valdez was contacted and drove out to the ranch to examine the dead bull. Gomez pointed out the strange marks in the dirt, and both men began tracing them. "We started walking," Officer Valdez recalled, "and we walked down the road. You could tell where those things came from, those imprints. They went about a hundred feet to the bull, it seems like they landed in something, right on the road, and got out and came up to where the bull was. It seems like they were sliding along...like crawling and scraping all the way to the bull...and then they just disappeared!"

One week later, Rawleigh Tafoya, the Jicarilla Tribal Chief of Police, discovered a mutilated animal on his ranch, which lies about 15 miles south of Dulce. The site was carefully studied by investigator Bernard Inez. "The ground was still wet," Inez explained, "because it had snowed the week before, and when I arrived there were no vehicle tracks. I stopped a good 50 yards away from the cow and walked up to it. There were plenty of cow prints in the area but no other kind of footprints or tracks." Under close examination, there appeared to be bruise marks on the carcass where, possibly, straps had been attached, and it was found that only the animal's udders had been removed. Continuing his check of the site, Inez discovered several sets of impressions in the ground about 100 yards north of the mutilated carcass; these were similar to those found on the Gomez ranch, only larger.

On May 29th, Inez examined a mutilated cow on a ranch belonging to Howard Vigil. The animal's left front leg was broken and it looked as if something had been clamped to it. As usual, the tongue, sex organs, and rectum had been cut out of the carcass. This time, the circular impressions were about 50 yards away from the animal's remains, in an area covered with sagebrush. Inez also discovered several broken branches in trees near the

carcass, suggesting that some object had moved through the air above the site.

Throughout this period, ranchers in New Mexico were reporting sightings of UFOs and small, white, unmarked helicopters flying low over grazing land, often with powerful spotlights in operation. While the appearance of the circular impressions and UFO sightings near mutilation sites seemed to support the extraterrestrial hypothesis, the continuing reports of low flying helicopters offered credence to the devil-cult theory. No one could fit all of the evidence into one acceptable explanation. As State Police Officer Dan Sanchez remarked, "it's really weird out there...there's just something wrong."

During the middle of June, 1978, another cow was found dead and mutilated on the Manuel Gomez ranch. On the same date exactly two years before, the first mutilation on the property had occurred. The most recent mutilation was within 500 yards of the 1976 incident's location. Officer Valdez examined the scene and could find no footprints or vehicle tracks. He also discovered that the cow's left front leg and left rear leg had been fractured; he could clearly see indentations in the flesh, near the fractures, which he assumed were left by clamps attached to the animal's legs. Ever since he first noticed these marks and broken legs on mutilated cattle, Valdez had theorized that the animals were being airlifted from their pastures, during the night, taken to a secluded area, mutilated, and returned to their pastures. "You could tell where these clamps or vises were attracted," Valdez explained. "I'm positive they do their work somewhere else."

Repeatedly frustrated in his attempts to unravel the mutilation mystery, Office Valdez penned about 120 of Gomez's beef cattle in a corral and moved them through

an exit chute, one at a time, where he examined them with an ultraviolet light. During the test, which was performed at night, Officer Valdez discovered five animals "with a glittery substance on the right side of the neck, the right ear, and the right leg." Samples of the substance were sent to the Schoenfeld Clinical Laboratories in Albuquerque to be analyzed for chemical content. Scientists at the laboratory discovered that the substance contained significant deposits of potassium and magnesium. Bob Schoenfeld, who operates the laboratory, called the appearance of these elements on animal hides "highly suspicious," and told reporters he doubted if they got there by natural means.

Several weeks later, the participants in these events would learn of an unreported UFO sighting in the Taos, New Mexico area, which occurred four days before the ultra-violet test of Gomez's cattle. At 12:05 AM, on July 1, 1978, three families living in an area northwest of Taos saw "a very bright orange light" outside their homes. Mrs. Elias Vargas, who witnessed the UFO's appearance, said that the object frightened her. "I had just gone to bed and suddenly the room lit up with a bright orange light," she explained. "I thought maybe the neighbors were throwing firecrackers, but they were too bright to be that."

"I went to the window and opened it," she continued, "and I could hear a kind of crackling noise. The light was so bright I could see for some distance. At first I thought, the neighbors' house was on fire, so I went to the other window. I saw this form, it wasn't a definite form, but it was roundish and about as big as two cars, maybe bigger. By then it wasn't orange any more, it was a sort of gray color. It stayed for about two minutes. I rushed into another bedroom and opened the drapes, and it took off to the north, and disappeared in two seconds. All you could see was a red light. It happened so fast. I got real

scared; I don't think I went to sleep until five in the morning."

Mrs. Vargas told reporters that members of three families in the neighborhood saw the UFO as it hovered over the ground between her house and the one next door. A pickup truck and a 500-gallon fuel tank were directly below the object at that time. The following morning, her family discovered a thin powder on the roof of the pickup truck's cab. They placed a sample of the powder in a glass jar. After their UFO sighting became public knowledge, the sample was sent to the Schoenfeld Laboratories in Alburquerque. Bob Schoenfeld examined the substance and reported that it contained significant amounts of potassium and magnesium—the same elements found on Manuel Gomez's cattle.

It is impossible to prove a direct relationship between the powder found on top of the pickup truck and the substance discovered on the five cattle, but one investigator did point out another intriguing coincidence: mutilated cattle are generally found lying on their right side—the same side the live cattle were "marked" on.

During the first week in October, 1978, four mutilated animals were found in one day on the Jicarilla Apache Reservation. Officer Valdez told reporters that all of the dead cattle were discovered within a one mile radius by Anna Baltazar, who owned three of the cows. The fourth animal belonged to Raleigh Tafoya, the Jicarilla Tribal Police Chief. As in the previous crimes, the cattles' tongues, sexual organs, and rectums had been removed with surgical precision; in addition, the hide of one victim appeared as if it had been burned in 18-inch patches. Officer Valdez also told reporters that "evidence of a hovering aircraft of some type was found."

On February 4, 1979, the Las Cruces, New Mexico, *Sun-News* reported the mutilation deaths of four horses

near the town of Malaga, in the southeastern section of the state. An Eddy County deputy told the newspaper that no bullet wounds or other evidence of a fatal injury could be found on any of the mares. "They just dropped dead in their tracks. One even had a mouthful of unchewed grass, and none of them looked like they moved or kicked after they fell over," he explained.

On and on it goes.

II

On the night of August 5, 1976, two employees of the Lebsack Feed Yard, which is located near the small town of Atwood, Colorado, watched as two creatures, who appeared "humanoid in shape," climbed over a fence and attacked a 1200-pound Hereford cow, leaving the animal mutilated in the usual fashion. The employees contacted the local police, who could find no marks or footprints on either the fence or the ground. It had rained earlier in the day, and the feed yard was quite muddy all around the dead cow. For this reason, the police were very skeptical of the story told by the two employees and may have suspected that the tale was made up to explain how a mutilation could have occurred within a fenced area. At last report, the two employees had been harassed by non-believers to the point where they were refusing to discuss the incident further.

Strange, gorilla-like creatures have been spotted in many communities where cattle mutilations have occurred, and it would be a mistake to dismiss the possibility that they actually exist, without first examining the evidence. The small town of Vidor, Texas, has recently had a long series of monster sightings by many reputable citizens. On the night of June 19, 1978, twenty-year-old Bobby Bussinger got brave and decided to

confront the creature that residents along North Tram Road were calling a "werewolf." Taking his .12-gauge shotgun with him, Bussinger walked cautiously to the edge of his property and stared into the darkness. In front of him was a creature more than six feet tall; its muscular body covered with long, shaggy hair. As the creature moved toward him, Bussinger fired a shot in panic before he turned and ran back to his house. After securing the door behind him, he called the local sheriff.

Bussinger and his 18-year-old wife Beckie, had lived in the house on North Tram Road for only 14 weeks. They knew when they moved in that the previous resident had left because of strange noises and occurrences in the night. And after they moved in, an elusive creature began clawing at their window screens, howling in the night, and yelping like an injured dog. Other neighbors had also reported the activities of the creature.

Sheriff's Deputy Jack Reeves responded to their call for help on the night in question, and arrived at their home about 11:30 PM. The Bussingers told him that they believed the creature had killed three of their dogs; two of the animals were found with their hindquarters maimed and later died. The other dog was still missing. And this night had begun with sounds "like a good-sized dog fight." Later, there was rapping on the windows and banging on the walls of the house, accompanied by heavy footfalls outside and an eerie barking and yelping. The family took as much as it could, and then Bobby Bussinger went after the creature with his shotgun.

Deputy Reeves examined the house and found that four of the window screens had been torn off "by what appears to be bare hands." Some of the window frames were broken, indicating the creature's great strength. Deputy Reeves decided that the young couple might be telling the truth, so he walked to the place where Bussinger had

earlier confronted the creature. "I heard growling and howling in the distance," he recalled. "It sounded like a cross between the noise a hyena makes and that of an injured dog. As I went into the woods, the sound came from farther away and I knew it was backing off."

Deciding that he could not locate the creature in the dark, Deputy Reeves returned to the house and drove his patrol car a block away in hopes that the creature would return. He was not disappointed. After only five minutes, his police radio crackled with a report that something was at the back of the Bussinger's house, scratching and banging on the window screens. "I drove in, but my car was under a street light," Reeves explained. "It took me a matter of seconds to hit the driveway—but it had backed off. I saw it about 50 yards off, a large form in the shadows. It was between two small oaks that form a V. I shined the spotlight and it moved into the woods."

"I was skeptical at first and so was Bussinger," Deputy Reeves recalled later. "But it's gotten pretty serious with the property destruction and now the dogs."

Apparently, these creatures enjoy ripping off windows and doors, as well as attacking small animals. As Associated Press story dated February 27, 1971, described a similar incident on a farm near El Reno, Oklahoma. During the previous December, the farm's owner had discovered the door to his chicken coop torn off and lying on the ground. Inside the coop and on the damaged door were strange hand prints that measured about seven inches long and five inches wide. Whatever had ripped off the door, had taken several chickens from the coop.

The local police were completely puzzled by the hand prints, and the door was finally shipped to zoologist Lawrence Curtis, director of the Oklahoma City Zoo, for study. Professor Curtis compared the strange prints with

samples of great apes, and monkeys, bears, other animals, and even human beings without finding a match. "I don't know what this is," he confessed. "It resembles a gorilla but it's more likely a man." The prints had another mysterious feature; Professor Curtis discovered that the creature's thumb print was turned inward, as if its hand had been deformed or injured. Interestingly enough, hairy monsters with mirror deformities are encountered from time to time.

During October 1969, Joe Rhodes of Bossburg, Washington, stumbled across the tracks of an ape-like creature, which he assumed was the legendary Sasquatch. Two investigators, Ivan Marx and Rene Dahinden, subsequently found another trail of the same footprints in the area and followed them for half a mile, counting 1,089 individual prints. A closer study of the markings revealed that this creature had a common abnormality known as clubfoot. It is difficult to believe that a hoaxer would bother—or have the knowledge—to reproduce this deformity in a fake footprint, which suggests, in turn, that we are dealing with a real phenomenon.

Nevertheless, it must be pointed out that the only physical evidence we have—the alleged footprints—is inconclusive as proof for the existence of a flesh and blood creature. Evidence that would be conclusive—such as bodies or bones—is notoriously absent; and we are left wondering if there could be some reason why these hairy monsters—like the ubiquitous UFOs and phantom helicopters—leave so little physical proof of their passing. Could they be non-physical in nature?

III

Another trail of presumably false evidence began in Colorado, when several investigators suggested that

bacteriological warfare research was somehow involved in the cattle mutilations. Bacteriological and chemical warfare by the United States military, except for solely defensive purposes, was banned by Congress in 1970. This action was the direct result of an accident during a test of VX nerve gas in Utah during March 1968, in which high winds blew some of the deadly gas away from the Dugway Proving Grounds and on to privately owned grazing land. Approximately 6,400 sheep died and, after first denying responsibility, the Army ended up paying angry landowners $376,000 in damages. In spite of this ban—or perhaps because of it—some investigators now felt that the military was again experimenting with bacteriological weapons; this time, on the livestock of unsuspecting ranchers.

According to this theory, the mutilators, who traveled by unmarked helicopters, were injecting cattle with bacteria or toxins and then removing tongues and ears for later laboratory testing to determine the effects of the chemical agents. The supporters of this theory also claimed that the government was responsible for the continuing UFO sightings and all of the devil-cult evidence, which, they believed, were being created by the military to divert attention from their activities. When a Utah veterinarian employed by the United States Department of Agriculture announced that he had discovered an apparent toxin during the autopsy of a mutilated animal, his supervisors ordered him not to release any more information to the press. The supporters of the military experiment theory were jubilant over this development; they assumed that it was proof of a coverup to protect the government's involvement. A more likely explanation would be that the Department of Agriculture was aware of the ongoing federal investigation of satanic cults, and was worried that releasing this information

might jeopardize the government's probe.

Perhaps the best known supporter of the military experiment theory is Ed Sanders, who authored *The Family*, a book on the crimes of Charles Manson and his followers. Sanders became involved in the cattle mutilation mystery after some thoughtful individual mailed him a severed cow's tongue in a shoebox during June, 1975. Despite an elequent presentation of the arguments for the military experiment theory, Sander's articles on the mutiltation mystery fail to overcome the major objections to this position. For example, he is unable to explain rationally why the government, if it wanted to experiment on cattle, would not purchase the necessary animals and conduct its tests on any one of dozens of secret military bases. Or, why the government would risk flying helicopters near to the ground at night. He also fails to understand the significance of UFO sightings, the vanishing hooded cultists, or the reports of hairy monsters prowling the countryside. Instead, he sees them as part of a series of government instigated diversion tactics. At times, Sanders himself seems less than totally convinced of the veracity of his position. His two major articles on the cattle mutilation mystery were published in *Oui* magazine, and this may offer a clue to understanding his acceptance of this outlandish theory. *Oui* publishes a great deal of material that is critical of the government, and Sanders may just have been slanting his work to fit the particular market.

In any event, as this theory began to gain acceptance among certain investigators, some very peculiar evidence began showing up near cattle death sites. During February, 1976, for example, a mutilated calf was found in Colorado with its mouth stuffed full of radar chaff. For those who do not know, radar chaff is an aluminum, tinsel-like material dropped by attacking airplanes to

confuse enemy radar defenses. When billions of strips of the material are released into the air, it has the effect of creating a blizzard on enemy radar screens, temporarily concealing the aircraft's position. What this material would be doing stuffed in the mouth of a mutilated animal is beyond comprehension. Also near the dead calf was a small, silver-colored box with the code RR112/AL stamped on the top. The local sheriff contacted the Air Force to determine if the box was official government property. This inquiry brought a reply from a Major Keck, who informed the sheriff's office that the type of radar chaff found at the death site was similar to that used by the Strategic Air Command and other military groups. He was unable to identify the box, however, after revealing that RR112/AL was not a code used by the Air Force.

A sample of the chaff was later subjected to chemical analysis and, surprisingly, it was found to be made from high quality aluminum, shredded into short strips. The aluminum involved was too pure to be of industrial quality, and in that respect is unlike the radar chaff that the Air Force dumps out of its planes by the ton during training exercises. An even more puzzling aspect of the material's composition was that the analysis failed to detect any trace elements in the sample. Usually, chemical analysis will uncover tiny particles of metal, such as steel or gallium, in manufactured material, which come from the machinery used to cut and shape it. These findings suggest that this particular chaff was produced under rather exceptional circumstances.

In spite of the difference between common Air Force radar chaff and the highly pure material found at the animal death site, believers in the military experiment theory immediately proclaimed that this strange evidence was more proof of the government's involvement in the

continuing cattle mutilations. And perhaps it is a clue, although not the kind that these investigators presume. Small, aluminum strips have often been discovered after UFO sightings. On September 7, 1956, thousands of witnesses in Chiba, Japan, observed great quantities of aluminum chaff fall from a hovering disk-shaped object, and more of the material mysteriously appeared in a burning field near Gastonia, North Carolina, during a 1966 UFO sighting. Could the material have been placed at the mutilation site as a reminder that UFOs often drop aluminum, magnesium, tin, and other metals?

In February, 1976, another bizarre animal death occurred on the Rhea Howe Ranch near the town of Engle, New Mexico. The mutilated heifer involved was taken to the state medical examiner's laboratory for autopsy, and later, a spokesman for the facility told reporters that the animal had been killed by a massive overdose of atropine, a nerve gas antidote. This substance had been stockpiled all over the nation prior to the ban on chemical warfare research for use during an accident or enemy attack. Seemingly, any group could have obtained a small supply, but this incident was accepted as more proof that the military was secretly experimenting on privately owned cattle by some investigators. However, when examined closely, this case raises more questions than it answers. Why would the government be experimenting with atropine on cattle when its effects on animals and human beings is already well known? And why would they have given the heifer such a massive injection that it would kill the animal and later be detected in the autopsy, pointing the finger of guilt in their direction? Once again, it looks as if the evidence may have been manufactured to mislead.

Nor was that the end of the false evidence. On June 9, 1978, a brown mare was found dead close to the Camp

Luna firing range near Las Vegas, Nevada. As in earlier incidents, the uterus, nipples, and rectum of the horse were removed with surgical precision, while there were no visible wounds on the animal or tracks on the ground. Carlos Lovato, the local cattle inspector, told reporters that he had seen six or seven other mutilated animals in his district and could offer no explanation or motive for the crimes. "There are no clues as to who did them or what," he explained. "A 1,600 pound horse is not easy to mutilate." Approximately one week later, a dead cow was discovered in the same area. Autopsies on these two animals revealed no trace of tranquilizers or other drugs, yet the proximity of the mutilation sites to a military facility was seen by some as proof of government involvement in the crimes. But the question must be asked: why near a firing range and not a major helicopter facility, if the military had decided to operate close to its own bases?

As 1978 progressed, the military experiment theory would slowly die of its own internal inconsistencies, and most speculation would, once again, center on the alleged existence of an airborne devil-cult. At the beginning of January, 1979, United States Senator Harrison Schmitt announced that he had asked the Justice Department to investigate the continuing cattle mutilations in his state of New Mexico and other western states. "The ranchers and local officials are far more aware of the specifics of this problem and I would hope that federal officials would take advantage of their knowledge," he explained. "The investigation so far should significantly contribute to a federal investigation. It provides a base that along with the scientific and investigative resources of federal authorities should provide the answers," Senator Schmitt concluded. But will it? I have no doubt that if these federal and state

investigations continue long enough, some law enforcement officer will eventually stumble upon a group of drug-crazed satanists crudely slaughtering a cow in an attempt to imitate the cattle mutilation phenomena. But this will not solve the literally thousands of cases which have occurred all over the nation during the past several years. Nor will it explain the sightings of UFOs and hairy monsters which are integral parts of the whole mystery.

The clue to providing a comprehensive theory, which will explain all of the diverse and seemingly contradictory evidence, must lie in what some students of the UFO question have come to call the "reflective factor." In short, this means that UFOs, and many other unexplained phenomena, often appear to transform themselves to reflect the beliefs and expectations of witnesses. Some investigators are now beginning to realize that the same process is occurring in the cattle mutilation mystery. On November 30, 1978 the *Rio Grande Sun,* which is published in Espanola, New Mexico, quoted an unnamed, retired scientist who, along with his wife, has spent two and a half years investigating mutilation phenomena as explaining that every time they think of "dropping it" something new turns up and they are back on the trail again. "Perhaps," he speculated, "something is leading us into new fields of science and new fields of thinking."

CHAPTER 11

I

So far in this book, we have traced the development of the cattle mutilation mystery and the evolution of various theories which have been offered as unified explanations of the phenomena. After careful examination, none of these theories proved to be very effective in explaining all of the factors involved—and some were found to be so inadequate, it seems difficult to believe that they could ever have been taken seriously. What I propose to do now is to offer a hypothesis which, on first examination, may seem more difficult to accept than any of those already offered, but has the redeeming quality of reconciling all of the diverse and apparently contradictory data into a unified whole. Stated quite simply, what I am suggesting is that UFOs, phantom helicopters, hairy monsters, and most—if not all—of the bizarre phenomena detailed in this book are projections from some other dimension than our own, or the result of interaction between one or more unknown dimensions and our limited concept of reality. If these continual realms, or planes actually exist, and there is good evidence that they do, they may be closer

to our world than anyone suspects. In fact, a whole panorama of sights and sounds could be continually moving around us, although we can not see or hear any of it. UFOs and hairy monsters could be the natural inhabitants of this other space-time continuum, who have somehow found a "door" from their world into ours.

Modern science rejects the possibility that other, as yet unknown, dimensions could influence our lives. But this scientific concept of a closed history is a relatively recent development. By a closed history modern scientists mean that all events are the result of natural—that is to say, known—causes or human actions. In past ages, educated men have believed that other forces—gods, demons and the like—intervened in human events. It was not until the late nineteenth century that the idea of a science totally without external intervention—one in which casaulty was exclusively limited to known, natural forces—gained credence.

Today, the scientific establishment wil not even consider the possibility that these age-old beliefs might contain some truth. C.P. Snow, the famous scientist and novelist said once, that in science it is important to know what not to think about. The possibility of other dimensions would be, in the view of most conventional scientists, something not to think about. But the theory of other, coexistent dimensions is somewhat less fanciful now than when it was accepted as fact by the majority of the world's people.

In 1948, Dr. Gustaf Stromberg, an internationally known and respected astronomer, published an amazing book. Titled *The Soul of the Universe*, it presented Dr. Stromberg's belief that another dimension does exist beyong our senses, and that this other realm is responsible for the existence of our world. According to Dr.

Stromberg, this nonphysical dimension emanates fields of energy that are the patterns for the forms of all living things in the universe. These patterns are filled in by the matter of our world, giving all living creatures—including man—their physical nature. Needless to say, this book is almost exclusively speculation, but the ideas presented do, in some ways, parallel the ancient philosopher Plato's concept of "ideal forms," and represent an intellectual tradition that has continued for millenniums.

In recent years, other astronomers have also been forced to consider the possibility that other dimensions exist. The cause of this has been the discovery in outer space of what are known as black holes. A black hole is the condensed remains of an exploded star. Scientists now believe that all stars—including our own sun—eventually burn themselves out, after which their outer layers collapse in on the dying core until the once gigantic star becomes a dense, small ball of neutrons, with gravity so strong that no matter, light, or other radiation can ever escape from it.

One of the earliest scientists to speculate on the existence of black holes was Pierre Simon de Laplace, who, using Newtonian physics back in 1788, predicted that an extremely dense mass would be invisible because the escape velocity necessary for light rays to leave the body would be greater than the speed of light, which is viewed as an inviolable absolute, hence nothing could ever leave a black hole. And with no light coming out, the body would be invisible. Apparently, this fact would make black holes impossible to detect. But since the advent of radio astonomy, scientists have been puzzled by the discovery of point sources of radio waves located in the furthest reaches of the universe, and many astronomers now believe that some of these are black holes. The radio waves are created when matter, even an entire star, falls

toward the black hole and is compressed, giving off energy that can be detected on earth by radio telescopes. In April, 1978, astronomers working at two observatories announced that evidence of this type indicated that a black hole, 5 billion times as massive as our sun, existed at the center of a distant galaxy known as Messier 87. It was discovered that stars near the core of that giant galaxy were moving so rapidly that the existence of a black hole nearby seemed a probable explanation.

The acceptance of black holes as a reality by modern science solves one astronomical problem, but creates another just as perplexing. After matter has fallen into a super-dense body, what happens to it? The black hole can not increase in size to accommodate the constant influx of new matter, since to do so would require that the boundaries of the body move outward at a speed greater than that of light. On the other hand, it seems impossible to believe that the material within the black hole could constantly be condensed to smaller and smaller proportions in order to make room for the new material that is being sucked in. To resolve this conflict, another astronomical body has been postulated: the white hole. According to this theory, every black hole has an associated white hole where the collected matter is spewed back into space. Any body releasing such large quantities of matter would also release massive amounts of radio waves, which could easily be detected here on earth with our present equipment. Since no such bodies have been discovered in our universe, it is possible—according to this theory—that the white holes exist in other dimensions or parallel universes. If this theory is correct, there could exist an infinite number of dimensions, passing matter back and forth, destroying old universes and creating new ones. And our mysterious UFOs may be visitors from one of these parallel worlds.

II

The interdimensional theory is extremely useful not only for explaining strange, nocturnal lights in the sky, but also for explaining the many puzzling aspects of UFO occupant sightings and even the hairy monster reports. In some cases, UFO occupants have been described by witnesses as being semi-transparent, or as having floated above the ground, or as having walked across a muddy field without leaving any footprints; in other cases, they have demonstrated the ability to dematerialize before startled observers. Such incidents defy the physical laws governing our three dimensional world, but can be understood if we think of these entities as denizens of a parallel universe who momentarily project their images into our reality.

This also explains how UFOs and hairy monsters can be seen in every country in the world and yet never be captured or leave behind any conclusive physical evidence. Even in the Soviet Union, where the official press treats all such sightings as being nonsense and private publications about these phenomena are prohibited, UFOs and hairy monsters are constantly being reported. The Russian cousin of our Sasquatch is called, in a Yakutia dialect, "Chuchunaa," which means "fugitive" or "outcast." According to witnesses, Chuchunaa stands over 6 feet high, has a protruding forehead, and is covered with shaggy hair, although he is often observed wearing a reindeer skin as protection against the Siberian winter. At a small lake called Kok-Kol in the Dzhambul region of southern Kazakhstan, many witnesses have reported sighting a sea monster named Aidakhor, a 50-foot version of Scotland's Loch Ness monster. Extensive studies of the lake have failed to uncover any evidence to suggest that a large, physical animal is living there. Could this creature be one of our

visitors from another dimension?

The hairy monster sightings are so common that the creatures have been given special names by the people of various countries; they are called Sedapa or Orang-Pendek in Borneo, Orang-Dalam in Malaysia, Agogue in East Africa, Duendi in the Colombian Andes, and Almas in central Asia. The possibility that an unknown species of animal could exist all over this planet and yet never be captured or leave behind any conclusive physical evidence is so remote that it can be safely rejected. These creatures can only be explained as non-physical visitors from a parallel world.

This leads us to the question of how many different kinds of creatures could be entering our reality from another dimension. There are innumerable reports of UFOs landing and discharging human beings who enter waiting automobiles and are driven off. There are other stores about sinister men who impersonate policemen, FBI agents, and even Air Force officers. They reportedly intimidate UFO witnesses, confiscate photographs, and order witnesses to remain silent about their sightings. The various government agencies involved have always denied that these individuals were in their employ, and have often undertaken elaborate—and unsuccessful—investigations to find and arrest these imposters. Could they also be visitors to our dimension?

Unwelcomed guests are an embarrassment not only to believers in air-borne devil-cults, but also to the members of the scientific establishment. The most basic criterion of modern science is that an experience must be repeated many times under laboratory conditions before it can be accepted as factual. And, in this view, a phenomena that cannot be repeated should be dismissed. However, there is an area of reality in this world that can not be placed under a microscope for study, a reality that is not always

visible to our eyes, but exists nonetheless. These strange beings may be the minions of evil, bent on the destruction of mankind, as many ancient religions have proclaimed. Or they could be only actors in a great cosmic cavalcade. But we had better find out, for our remaining time appears to be growing short.

CHAPTER 12

I

From all of the evidence presented so far, it seems apparent that the cattle mutilation phenomena has responded to the evolution of different explanatory theories by creating situations which, if one does not look too deeply, provide confirmation for each and every hypothesis. At one point, the whole mystery apparently could have been the work of one, helicopter-equipped devil-cult. Then, a group of UFO buffs suggested that outer space aliens were dissecting animals for scientific study, and suddenly marks, presumably from the landing gear of flying saucers, began appearing frequently at mutilation sites. Next, speculation by investigators returned to the devil-cult theory and the skies filled with unmarked helicopters and even UFOs which looked like helicopters minus their propellers. For a brief time, the suggestion that the United States military was involved in the crimes held some interest, and cattle began dying near Army and Air Force facilities. Throughout this period of confusion and disorder, the information necessary to solve the mystery was always available, but only a few understood it.

The key to unlocking the cattle mutilation mystery lies in the fascinating ability of UFOs to present themselves in forms which conform to the beliefs and expectations of witnesss. Every year thousands of people report sighting UFO phenomena, not only here in the United States but all over the world. And everyday the evidence grows for the belief that strange objects are, indeed, cruising our skies, despite the rejection of this fact by the American government and much of the scientific establishment. But one question has always remained: who—or what—are these mysterious invaders?

Throughout the world today there are hundreds of thousands of people who are completely convinced that our planet is being visited by large numbers of spaceships from other worlds. Most of them also believe that various governments and military organizations know this "fact" and have for more than thirty years been engaged in a vast and elaborate conspiracy to hide the truth from the public. In addition to this hard core of dedicated believers, there are millions of others who are aware that UFOs are constantly sighted throughout the world and are anxious to learn the truth about our unidentified visitors.

Amazingly, there are many indications today that very large numbers of people have had some sort of personal contact with UFOs and are willing to talk about their experiences. In the *True Report on Flying Saucers*, a Gallup Poll report for 1966, it was revealed that over five million Americans believed that they had seen an unidentified flying object, and about 50 million Americans believed that the phenomena regularly reported is real in an objective sense, and not just a figment of the imagination.

In the latest Gallup survey of the topic, published in May, 1978, 57 percent of those aware of UFOs now believe they are real. The poll also revealed that 11 percent

of Americans, or a projected 13 million people, have seen what they believe to be a UFO.

Modern belief in the theory that our world is being visited by aliens from outer space began in 1947, shortly after Kenneth Arnold, a Seattle businessman, reported seeing nine bright objects that "flew like a saucer would if you skipped it across water" while piloting his private plane near Mount Rainier in Washington. Although there is good reason to assume that Kenneth Arnold was actually looking at natural atmospheric phenomena, his sighting marked a turning point, and brought the term "flying saucer" into our vocabulary. From 1947 onward, sightings of strange lights and objects in the skies were no longer thought of as isolated occurrences. Instead, they were viewed by an ever-increasing percentage of the population as part of a continuous observation of our world by extraterrestrial intelligences. A belief that has grown faster than any other in all of history.

Throughout this period, a large segment of the scientific community not only rejected the possibility that UFOs existed, but even refused to examine any evidence of their reality. For this reason, most investigations of UFO sightings have been conducted by individuals who lacked even a basic understanding of scientific methods. Moreover, these amateur investigators have, for the most part, approached each incident with the preconceived belief that an alien spaceship was involved and continued to support that notion even after subsequent studies have proven it to be untenable. The amateur UFO investigators usually waste much of their time in endless verbal battles with skeptical scientists, the Air Force, and other nonbelievers, while the true nature of UFO incidents has remained undiscovered. While the scientific and military establishments have continually dismissed the UFO phenomenon as being a modern myth in their public

pronouncements, there is every reason to believe that the Air Force, the North American Air Defense Command, and the CIA are presently collecting sighting reports. Not in hopes of eventually capturing an alien flying saucer, but with the intention of discovering what UFOs actually are.

Perhaps the greatest reason why the true nature of the UFO phenomenon has remained in question is that the collectable data in nearly all cases consists only of anecdotal sighting reports that remain unexplained after careful study by competent investigators. In a small percentage of the cases, the anecdotal information in supplemented by physical traces such as burn marks, photographs, radar contacts, biological effects on human and animal witnesses, and electromagnetic effects.

Sometimes, physical evidence is discovered and related to UFO activity even though no sightings of aerial phenomena have occurred. A recent example of this took place on August 15, 1976, near Lancaster, Ohio, which is north of an area that was experiencing a series of UFO sightings and cattle mutilations at the time. A local farmer discovered a mysterious, triangular patch of corn in his field smashed flat. The farmer measured the patch and reported that each of the three sides was exactly 15 feet, 9 inches in length. The broken corn stalks were all pointing in the same direction, so several UFO investigators claimed the patch was the site of a UFO landing in spite of the fact that no one had actually seen a flying object of any type near the field. In most cases, these saucer nests, as they are usually called, are not directly related to UFO sightings. The average saucer nest just suddenly appears in an area where UFOs have been active. Actually, people have been stumbling across these strange patches of crushed vegetation, which are usually round and about 30 feet in diameter, for at least a thousand years. Centuries ago, these patches were called fairy circles, and believers in

these legends claimed the circles marked the place where an unfortunate human had been trapped by a group of fairies, who ran around him creating a patch of crushed vegetation and eventually transporting him to fairyland. I am not suggesting that these legends are true, but it is interesting to note that these circles have been associated for centuries with disappearances of humans and with small beings who look remarkably like the creatures modern UFO witnesses report as flying saucer occupants.

In a search for the truth behind the UFO mystery, a competent investigator begins by eliminating sighting reports that lack adequate information or can be identified by a review of the assembled data. During this process, the greatest percentage of UFO reports can be attributed to common, man-made objects. These include misidentifications of weather balloons, flares, aircraft identification lights, and the like.

It has often been suggested that UFOs are experimental aircraft produced by our—or some foreign and hostile—government. However, very few sightings actually involve experimental or secret aircraft, since normally their flights are restricted to within the boundaries of government test ranges. Furthermore, it is doubtful if any experimental aircraft now under development could equal the performance attributed to UFOs. In spite of this fact, it has been popular from time to time to suggest that UFOs are really Soviet secret weapons flying spy missions over the United States. In response to this, it must be pointed out that if the Russians had made such a fantastic technological advance as far back as 1947, they most certainly would not have waited all of these years before using this power to dominate the world.

After conventional objects, natural phenomena provide the largest number of spurious UFO sightings.

Bright stars, planets, comets, meteors, fire balls, mirages, and the northern lights have all contributed to significant numbers of erroneous reports. While each wave of sightings adds to the accumulation of known things that have been misinterpreted, it also adds to the reports which, by present methods of study, defy analysis.

The total number of unexplained sightings is so large that the full magnitude of the UFO phenomenon is not commonly realized. Many of the reports that defy analysis have been made by military pilots, radar men, guided missile trackers, crews of naval vessels, and members of ground combat forces. In addition, there have been numerous sightings by especially competent civilians such as airport traffic controllers, astronomers, aeronautical engineers, and police officers, as well as commercial airline pilots. Unfortunately, many of the best sightings by pilots are never made public. Airlines prefer to keep the reports out of the newspapers because the sightings tend to make their passengers fearful of flying. And military pilots and other members of the armed forces are prohibited from discussing sighting reports that have been classified secret under the threat of both imprisonment and heavy fines.

Yet an astonishing number of civilian pilots have been willing to risk ridicule and grounding. When Dr. Edward C. Welch, executive secretary of the National Aeronautics and Space Council, traveled to a 1966 conference in Baltimore by railroad train, he told reporters: "So many airline pilots report seeing UFOs—that's why I take the train." Dr. Welch's remark may have been made facetiously, but the fact remains that pilot sightings are an excellent source of highly reliable information about UFOs.

It should be pointed out that some of the vilification directed at the subject of UFOs by the scientific and

military establishments is often the direct result of the extraterrestrial interpretation which witnesses usually give to their sightings. In addition, reports based on misidentifications are commonplace, and many of the best documented sightings seem beyond the limits of possibility when the raw data are first examined. However, as Dr. J. Allen Hynek has pointed out, there is also a tendency among twentieth century scientists to forget that there will be a twenty-first century science that will make the wonders of our age seem, by comparison, commonplace.

II

Through the diligent efforts of a small group of dedicated researchers, we know that UFOs have been in our skies since the dawn of recorded history. Medieval monks, ancient Chinese astronomers, and Biblical prophets seem to have regularly observed strange objects in the sky. Probably the oldest written record of a UFO sighting is found in an ancient Egyptian papyrus that is supposed to date from around 1500 B.C. Alexander the Great and his army observed a fleet of UFOs, which they described as "great shining silvery shields," as they advanced over the Jaxartes River into India during 329 B.C.

Christopher Columbus was perhaps the first white man to sight a UFO in the New World. At 10:00 P.M. on the night of October 11, 1492, Columbus was standing on the deck of the Santa Maria and saw a "a light glimmering at great distance." He immediately called Pedro Gutierrez, "a gentleman of the king's bedchamber," who also saw the light. The light disappeared after a short time but reappeared again several times during the night, bobbing up and down "in sudden and passing gleams." The ship was too far out at sea for it to have been a fire on land, and

no satisfactory explanation for the light has been offered.

Although the oral legends of many American Indian tribes tell of strange lights in the sky, Europe offers the best record of sightings for this early period. An Italian monastery reported seeing glowing disks in the sky during the late 1500's. And in Fluelen, Switzerland, an enormously long, fiery object was seen flying alongside a lake in 1619. More than a century later, Florence, Italy, had sightings of strange globes of light that floated in the air, and made their first appearance on December 9, 1731.

Kenneth Arnold was not the first to describe a UFO as looking like a flying saucer. On January 24, 1878, near Denison, Texas, a farmer named John Martin looked up and saw a circular object in the sky. Martin said the object was very high up and moved "at a wonderful speed." He went on to say that the only way he could describe the disk was to state that it looked like a large "saucer" shooting through the air. His story was published the following day in the *Denison Daily News*, but no further sightings were reported and the controversy died down.

The earliest known photograph of a UFO was taken August 12, 1883, at Zacatecas Observatory in Mexico by Professor Jose A. Y. Bonilla while he was photographing solar phenemona. Almost 280 objects were observed and photographed during a two hour period. The UFOs appeared to be luminous objects with long trails of light until they crossed the face of the sun, when they were seen as dark bodies, that became luminous once again after leaving the sun's face. The UFOs moved singly or in small groups, and occasionally in fleets of fifteen or twenty. The objects were not a meteor group, and they still have not been identified.

Several modern researches have suggested that many of these historical sightings involved spaceships from other worlds. An underlying assumption of all theorizing about

historical extraterrestrial visitation is that if human beings living in a technologically primitive society observed alien spacecraft, they would tend to interpret their sightings in religious terms. This would account for discrepancies between the descriptions of aerial objects in ancient records and modern assumptions about the appearance of spaceships constructed on other worlds. However, this theory tends to break down when used to explain puzzling details in modern sightings.

III

In 1896 and 1897, thousands of witnesses from California to the Ohio Valley reported sighting mysterious objects and lights in the skies, and dozens of newspapers reported their observations in great detail. As with later UFO sightings, many of the reports from this period can be classified as stars, planets, hoaxes, or the products of imagination. About two hundred, however, defy classifications as natural phenomena and can be unquestionably categorized as true UFOs. A close examination of these early sighting reports offers many clues to the UFO mystery, and more evidence that the reflective factor has been in operation for at least a century.

One of the earliest, and best documented, sightings occurred on the evening of November 17, 1896, when a brilliant light moved through the skies over Sacramento, California. It was witnessed by hundreds of people that night, including the mayor's daughter who watched the aerial intruder for a short time and later told reporters that she had witnessed the flight of a man-made dirigible. At this point in time, no known dirigible was in existence anywhere in America.

One witness, the assistant superintendent of the city's streetcar company, saw no details during his sighting, but

he did watch the radiant globe as it glided in an undulating course toward the southwestd and disappeared. Another witness, Mr. T. P. de Long, was unable to determine if there was an actual airship above the glowing light, but he clearly saw it travel against the wind as it flew three or four hundred feet above him in the dark sky.

Countless others who saw the mysterious light, however, were convinced that it was attached to an airship. The consensus among witnesses was that the object consisted of a long cylinder, tapered at both ends, with a set of propellers or fan wheels to push the craft through the air. Beneath this body many observers saw a cabin or gondola that housed a searchlight. Others claimed to have seen wings on the object. Numerous estimates indicated that the object cruised over the city for nearly thirty minutes before flying off.

During this early period in aviation history, the dirigible was not yet a reality, and no one could explain the strange light in the sky. There were rumors of secret inventors who were, for unfathomable reasons, testing airships over major cities at night, and although at least two poorly designed dirigibles were patented during this period, there is no credible evidence that any of these supposed inventors actually constructed an airship capable of flight let alone the performance of the objects reported.

The most interesting story about a secret inventor developed shortly after an airship was sighted soaring about the night skies of San Francisco. A wealthy attorney named George D. Collins announced that he was the personal representative of the airship's inventor. According to Mr. Collins, the craft had been constructed in Oroville, California, from materials purchased in the East and transported there in order to maintain secrecy. Collins further claimed that he had been contacted by the

unnamed inventor to go to Washington, D.C., to personally obtain patent protection from the government. Newspaper reporters gave Collins a great deal of attention during the following weeks, but he was never able to produce either the inventor or the airship. Eventually the airship stopped making appearances, and George D. Collins vanished. Today, the same mechanism is apparently at work among flying saucer prophets who claim to be human representatives of the space people; these individuals often announce dates when UFOs will land and make contact with our civilization, but they are never able to produce a flying disk or a single alien.

The possibility that any of these witnesses observed a real dirigible in the 1890's is very remote. Progress in aviation was moving very slowly during this period of history, due primarily to the lack of an adequate engine to propel an airship. Henri Giffard of France constructed a blimp in 1852 that traveled seventeen miles, but was too underpowered to circle or fly against the wind. In 1884, Charles Renard and A. C. Krebs built a non-rigid craft with an electric motor that could travel about thirteen miles per hour and return to the point from which it left; but this airship was not practical for flights of long duration because of its power source. Count Ferdinand von Zeppelin's first airship was tested in June, 1900, when it attained a speed of eighteen miles per hour and traveled a distance of three and a half miles before an accident to the steering gear caused the flight to be discontinued. Obviously, the technology necessary for a man-made dirigible to maneuver as these UFOs did simply did not exist in 1897.

Charles H. Gibbs-Smith has said: "Speaking as an aeronautical historian who specializes in the periods before 1910, I can say with certainty that the only airborne vehicles, carrying passengers, which could possibly have

been seen anywhere in North America in 1897 were free flying spherical balloons, and it is highly unlikely for these to be mistaken for anything else. No form of dirigible or heavier-than-air flying machine was flying—or indeed could fly—at this time in America." Without doubt, the great black airship with the blinding searchlight that appeared over American in 1896 and 1897 was well ahead of its time.

In the following years, sightings of unidentified airships spread to other countries. The first wave of European airship sightings that we know of occurred in Great Britain in 1909. British witnesses reported seeing flying objects shaped like dirigibles, and some writers speculated that they were of German origin. Like its 1896 counterpart, the 1909 airship was a dark cigar-shaped object about one hundred feet long that maneuvered with ease and carried a very bright searchlight. And like its predecessor, it is its appearance and behavior that connects it with the modern UFO phenomenon.

Although there was much typical UFO behavior, such as rapid ascents and departures, mentioned in these early reports, the fascinating thing is that the airship had the characteristics of dirigibles under development at that time. Moreover, it is now quite apparent that such devices could never have performed the maneuvers ascribed to them. The winged, propeller driven airships, often burdened with massive gondolas, described by the witnesses would not have been capable of producing flight at the velocity and maneuverability reported in hundreds of cases. Nor does it seem likely that the objects were interplanetary spacecraft, since wings and propellers are of little use in airless space. A much more plausible explanation is that the witnesses saw meandering nocturnal lights and—believing that they were airships—imagined the details of their sightings. As the appearances

continued, the UFOs may have taken on the form of airships to conform to the beliefs of the people who observed them.

The next important wave of UFO sightings occurred in the early 1930's, when northern Sweden was inundated with reports of mysterious "ghost fliers." These unidentified objects were interpreted as being propeller-driven biplanes by most of the witnesses. The airplanes that were sighted appeared to be of normal design for the era, but they lacked identifying markings and, like the airships before them, usually flew at night and had beams of light emanating from them.

One night in December, 1933, during nearly impossible flying conditions, the ghost fliers appeared in large numbers over many isolated towns. The Swedish air force—which consisted of only about thirty planes at the time—was put on alert and ordered to pursue the aerial intruders. But the weather was so bad that two of the air force planes crashed, and most of the others were not even able to get off the ground.

Theories about the origin of these unidentified aircraft ranged from foreign smugglers to German reconnaissance planes. After a few more months of activity, the ghost fliers disappeared from the skies, and no one has ever been able to explain them.

Throughout history, man has used the vocabulary and expectations of his time to describe what he saw in the skies. As we are now seeing silvery disks, the Emperor Constantine saw a flaming cross, and Ezekiel saw the wheel. It seems likely that the ghost fliers were the same phenomenon as our modern UFOs, only interpreted within the expectations of the time in which they appeared.

During World War II, hundreds of American and other allied pilots reported seeing mysterious glowing objects

that often appeared near their aircraft as they flew over enemy territory. These UFOs paced fighters and bombers, flying singly or in group formation, and they were able to out maneuver any aircraft that attempted to follow them. Pilots who first encounted them nicknamed the luminous globes "Foo Fighters." The curious name was derived from the then popular comic strip "Smokey Stover," in which it was often stated that "Where's there's foo, there's fire."

The Army Air Force believed that the foo fighters were possibly a new type of Nazi secret weapon, and when the war ended a thorough investigation of this theory was made. However, no trace of such a weapon was found in the enemy arsenal. And, paradoxically enough, it was discovered that German and Japanese pilots had reported seeing the same glowing balls of light to their governments. The Axis commanders had been just as mystified by the foo fighters as the Americans.

The military reports filed at the time indicate that the objects never showed any hostility, and were not harmed when fired upon. The government's official explanation for these strange balls of light was that they were a type of natural electrical phenomena known as St. Elmo's Fire, that occurs when particles in the air become electrically charged. This is a very unlikely theory, since St. Elmo's Fire tends to float with the wind and is incapable of matching the speeds of World War II aircraft. At the end of the war, the foo fighters vanished from the skies just as the unidentified airships and the ghost fighters had disappeared before them. Interest in this subject also waned and the foo fighters were soon forgotten.

The only unusual feature of the sighting reports from this period is a complete lack of landing and occupant stories. Other than that, the amorphous lights which appear in the World War II accounts are very similar to

the modern sighting reports out of whose existence and the extraterrestrial enthusiasts have fashioned the interplanetary theory of UFO origin. Perhaps the absence of landing and occupant reports can be attributed to the fact that most witnesses interpreted the foo fighters as being unmanned weapons; the phenomena chose to reinforce this belief by acting only in ways that would fit this viewpoint.

During the summer and fall of 1946, thousands of unidentified rockets appeared in the skies over Scandinavia, and were given the nickname of "ghost rockets" by the press. Newspaper reports written at the time describe the objects as being cigar-shaped, traveling at very high speeds, and spewing out orange flames from their tails. As with other UFO phenomena, the ghost rockets were generally seen at night, and no physical evidence was ever left to mark their passing. Witnesses estimated their speeds at up to five hundred miles per hour.

No one knew what the objects were, but the Scandinavian press speculated that the rockets might be of Russian origin. Many of the witnesses had reported that the rockets appeared from the direction of Peenemunde, where, during World War II, the Germans had launched V-2 rockets against England. Peenemunde was now occupied by the Soviets, and although the Russians vehemently denied having anything to do with the ghost rockets, few believed them. The United States Government quickly became concerned about possible Soviet involvement, and in late August 1946, Air Force General James Doolittle was sent to Stockholm, Sweden. Officially listed as traveling on business for the Shell Oil Company, Doolittle was actually there to take part in an investigation being directed by a Swedish military intelligence unit.

The heaviest sightings of ghost rockets occurred over Sweden. Between July 9th and 30th, the Swedish military received more than six hundred reports of the mysterious flying objects. And on August 12, 1946, the *New York Times* reported that the Swedish general staff had received three hundred reports of rocket sightings in a single twenty-four hour period. After the great wave of mid-August, the sightings started to taper off in September—at least in Sweden. By the end of that summer, the reports had spread to Finland, Norway, and as far away as Portugal, Spain, French Morocco, Greece, and Turkey. No conclusion about the origin of the ghost rockets was ever published by any government, and as the sightings became fewer in number the public furor also died down.

Obviously, the 1946 wave followed the general patterns of UFO activity established during previous waves. A careful study of this wave of UFO sightings and earlier waves leaves little doubt that the airships, ghost fliers, and ghost rockets of other eras were substantially similar to the flying objects seen in the skies today by modern witnesses. The difference lies not in what is seen, but in how several groups of observers interpret the visible evidence. A meandering light in a dark sky can be seen as a dirigible, an airplane, or a flying saucer, depending on the witnesses' frame of reference.

Probably the most significant complication in any attempt to examine the UFO phenomenon is the strong tendency to interject an interpretation which is based on only a small segment of the available cases. The eye and the mind are not merely recorders, like a camera. We see what we expect to see—or what we want to see. Combine this fact with paranormal occurrences, or just ordinary coincidences, and the delicate facade we call reality crumbles precipitously.

CHAPTER 13

I

When large numbers of UFO sightings were reported all over the United States in 1947, the immediate reaction of most people, both military and civilian, was to assume that the objects—if they actually existed— were of Russian origin. But in December, 1948, Major Donald E. Keyhoe, a retired Marine Corps officer, published a sensational article in *True* magazine. It was titled "The Flying Saucers are Real," and it was without doubt one of the most successful articles in magazine history. By collecting together the best documented UFO cases and adding his own authoritative interpretation, Major Keyhoe managed to convince a large number of Americans that there were actually alien spacecraft cruising our skies.

Earlier beliefs about the origin of UFOs were quickly supplanted by the extraterrestrial theory, which has grown until the majority of people acquainted with the subject equate unidentified lights in the sky with alien spacecraft.

The theory that other planets are inhabited by intelligent creatures who have the technology to build spaceships has a long history. More than a century ago, the Italian astronomer Giovanni Schiaparelli, while studying the planet Mars through a telescope, observed what he thought was an intricate network of straight lines on that world's surface. He described them with the Italian word *canali*, which means "channels." However, when his statements were translated into English the word "canals" was used, and this engendered a growing speculation that Mars was inhabited by intelligent creatures who had built an elaborate network of artificial waterways to irrigate their desert planet. Later, the American astronomer Percival Lowell claimed to have seen not only canals on the surface of Mars, but also green oases that grew and shrunk with the changing seasons.

The Martian canal controversy died down only after more powerful telescopes were developed and no canals were found on the red planet, proving that the two famous astronomers had been the victims of an optical illusion.

In 1966, I. S. Shklovskii, a Russian astronomer, and Carl Sagan, an American astronomer, published a volume titled *Intelligent Life in the Universe*, in which they expressed a belief that somewhere in the cosmos there are planets inhabited by other thinking creatures. Going even further, Shklovskii proposed that alien beings had visited earth several times during the distant past, both before and after the appearance of Man. The book had the effect of giving the subject a certain legitimacy within the scientific community since both of its authors are highly respected within their disciplines. While Carl Sagan emphatically rejects the idea that UFOs are interplanetary spacecraft, this book has been used to support the theory of extraterrestrial visitation as an answer to the UFO mystery. In recent years, Dr. Sagan has continued to write

and speculate on the possible existence of life on other planets. This seemingly contradictory stand—expressing a belief in extraterrestial life and rejecting the existence of UFOs—has allowed him to make a great deal of money while still maintaining his position in the scientific establishment.

There are other theories of UFO origin. Ivan Sanderson, a zoologist who had spent many years investigating unexplained phenomena, analyzed hundreds of UFO accounts and came to the conclusion that over half of all UFO sightings occurred with the object coming from or vanishing over natural bodies of water. From this observation he developed the theory that there is an underwater civilization on this planet that is constructing UFOs, and piloting these technologically advanced craft through our skies.

Another theory suggest that UFOs are time travelers. If time is another dimension and not an entirely synthetic measurement, then it should be navigable. According to this theory, at some point in the distant future, our descendants have developed a technology for time travel, and have used it to launch an extensive investigation of their past, from Biblical times on. The flying craft witnesses see in the sky are their time probes, and the occupants witnesses talk to are our own future descendants.

An even more bizarre terrestrial theory suggests that an advanced culture may exist in the interior of the earth. Raymond Bernard, in his book *The Hollow Earth*, argues that UFO appearances over the Arctic and Antarctic are proof that flying vehicles are using openings near the poles to leave the hollow core of our planet.

I think it is safe to reject such theories on the basis of what we know about the UFO phenomena and the scientific knowledge now available.

II

A review of the thousands of UFO reports that have been recorded in the last thirty years reveals that most UFOs are simply nocturnal lights that perform unusual maneuvers in the sky. The typical nocturnal light is small, usually orange or red, however white, blue, and green are also commonly found in the accounts. Moreover, a great many of the sighting reports agree that UFOs appear to change color while reducing speed or during acceleration. Another common peculiarity is the ability of some UFOs to dematerialize, just vanish rather than fly off. Also, there are many reports where two distinctly different UFOs maneuvered separately in the sky before converging and eventually fusing into one object. In other incidents, one UFO has divided into two or more objects which then flew away in different directions.

Perhaps the best documented case of this type took place on June 29, 1954, before the crew and passengers of a commercial airliner. The aircraft, a BOAC stratocruiser, was flying at 19,000 feet on a New York to London route. Suddenly, a weird collection of objects appeared out of the clouds and began flying alongside the airliner. The largest object in the group appeared fluid and changed shape several times. The other UFOs were disk-shaped, and followed the larger object closely. The airliner's pilot radioed his sighting to a military base and a fighter plane was dispatched to confirm the sighting. Reaching a point 15 miles away, the fighter pilot observed the images of the UFOs and the commercial airliner on his radarscope. A few seconds later, the smaller UFOs merged with the larger object and formed a single mass, which then began to fade as the fighter plane reached the area. *Fate* magazine later ran a story on this sighting titled "BOAC's Flying Jelly Fish."

Thor Heyerdahl, the famous scientist and adventurer,

witnessed a common UFO phenomenon in the middle of the Atlantic Ocean in the early morning hours of June 10, 1970, when a bright orange light mysteriously appeared near his sailing craft, *Ra II*. Three weeks later, on June 30th, Heyerdahl and the crew member on watch and two other sailors observed a dome-shaped light that actually grew in size as they watched. Finally, the UFO spread itself along the horizon and lost its distinct shape before disappearing. This is hardly the performance that would be expected from an interplanetary spacecraft.

Because much of the UFO phenomenon does not support the extraterrestrial hypothesis, many UFO researchers have over-interpreted their material and have added coloring that suited their own particular points of view. Worse yet, some UFO organizations have deleted details from reports or even suppressed reports if they felt the facts of the incident would detract from their support of the interplanetary theory of UFO origin.

There is, of course, the possibility that UFOs are actually some little understood natural phenomenon. Many orthodox scientists have suggested that UFOs are will-o'-the-wisps, or swamp lights as they are also called. These are the flitting phosphorescent lights seen at night, usually over damp marshy ground, and they are believed to be caused by the spontaneous combustion of gas from decomposed organic matter. But since will-o'-the-wisps are not capable of maneuvering like UFOs, most serious researchers dismiss this theory as being untenable.

Ball lightning is another often suggested possibility. These glowing blobs of electrical fire have been reported by witnesses who saw them dancing along fences, falling down chimneys and into rooms, or drifting through open windows, and then ending their short lives by exploding violently. The usual explanation for this phenomenon is that a surrounding electrical storm has created an

electrical charge around particles floating in the air. Few knowledgeable researchers accept this theory, since UFOs usually appear on clear nights and are seldom—if ever—associated with electrical storms.

This brings us to the theory that UFOs are plasmas. Philip J. Klass, who at one time served as a senior editor for *Aviation Week and Space Technology* magazine, has theorized that since many UFOs are reported hovering near high-voltage powerlines they might actually be a product of the electricity running through those lines. This theory is based on the fact that under certain conditions luminous ionized air containing electrified particles can form along powerlines. This type of corona discharge is a relatively uncommon occurrence, but it can happen when the lines are contaminated with dust or salt deposits and there has been little rain. Klass believes that this ionized air mass could somehow detach itself from the powerlines and float around in an erratic manner similar to that reported by UFO witnesses.

However, all known natural plasmas have a very short lifetime, and even under laboratory conditions it is very difficult to sustain a plasma for more than a few microseconds. For this reason it is very difficult to believe that a natural plasma could exist separate from an electrical source for several minutes as occurs in most UFO sightings near powerlines.

One of the most intriguing aspects of the UFO mystery is the lack of physical evidence. There have been innumerable reports of pieces of metal or other substances found in association with UFO sightings that possessed qualities unknown to our science. However, it invariably happens that when the unearthly material is subjected to chemical analysis it turns out to be something quite ordinary, such as iron or aluminum foil. In several famous cases, witnesses reported that an individual

claiming to be a government agent appeared and demanded the substance be turned over to him. Later, the government would always deny they had sent agents, or even had any interest in the material.

Perhaps the best known "hardware" case occurred near Sao Paulo, Brazil, in 1957. Ibrahim Sued, a columnist for the Rio de Janiero newspaper O *Globo*, revealed on September 14, 1957, that he had obtained several fragments apparently from a disk-shaped object that had exploded over the beach at Ubatuba, Sao Paulo. Sued turned the material over to Dr. Olavo T. Fontes, a Brazilian member of the American UFO organization APRO, and he had the substance analyzed. The material was found to be magnesium of very high quality; in fact, it was so pure the normal contaminations found in spectroscopic analysis were absent. In 1957, magnesium of this quality was a laboratory oddity. UFOs are still dropping bits of magnesium today, usually where witnesses can readily retrieve it.

Another mysterious substance which has often been indirectly linked to UFO appearances is a gelatinous matter, often resembling a spider's web, that is called "angel's hair." Many witnesses have observed it falling from the sky, sometimes in great quantities, after a UFO had been spotted. Unfortunately, angel's hair seems to evaporate rapidly, removing all evidence of this unusual phenomenon.

One of the best sightings involving angel's hair occurred during the afternoon of October 22, 1973, when a suburban housewife in Sudbury, Massachusetts, observed a UFO shaped like a globe sail through the air and spin out a sticky, string-like material that fell to earth and was found draped over bushes and electrical wires. She placed a sample of the unknown substance in an air-tight container, to slow down its evaporation, and took it

to the University of Massachusetts, where extensive analysis confirmed it was not an ordinary spider's web.

Other short duration effects observed during close encounters with UFOs include interference with electrical equipment and sounds produced at frequency levels that are inaudible to humans. There are countless reports of UFO sightings in which the first indication of the object's presence came from animals. Every large collection of sighting reports contains stories of dogs whining, cattle stampeding, and horses stopping and refusing to go forward shortly before a UFO appeared. Also, there are many reports of strange sounds and even voices coming over radios, telephones, and television sets during UFO sightings. Occasionally, the noises have been emitted by loudspeakers that were turned off. Many students of the phenomenon are absolutely convinced that UFOs caused the great Northeast power blackout of 1966, as well as numerous other power failures throughout the country. Whenever there is a major power failure, there are usually accompanying reports of UFO activity in the vicinity.

The most typical electromagnetic effect occurs when a car's engine stops in the presence of a UFO, and then starts up again after the UFO leaves. Abnormalities are never found in the car's electrical system, so the UFO is always seen as the cause. Other similar effects have been observed, such as a spinning compass needle, dimming car or house lights, and wristwatches stopping or even reversing direction of the hands.

During an outbreak of cattle mutilations in Colorado, Sheriff Larry Graves of Logan County attempted to approach a strange, silent light that he assumed was a helicopter. Suddenly, his patrol car's engine started sputtering, and as he continued to drive toward the light the engine died. Sheriff Graves and his partner then pushed the car around, away from the light, and the engine

began to function normally.

Another type of evidence for the existence of UFOs is photographs taken during sightings. Thousands of UFO snapshots have been made during the last thirty years, and, with a few exceptions, no two photographed UFOs look alike. One reason for this is that many of the snapshots are frauds. Most UFO researchers have had to conclude, after years of study, that photographs are never convincing evidence by themselves. Photographs are just too easy to fake; and some very impressive UFO pictures that were presented as being genuine for years were finally admitted to be frauds.

An even more intriguing fact is that independent witnesses seldom describe the same UFO in an identical way, and often they disagree substantially on important details. Both written reports and photographs show a wide variety of shapes, sizes, and colors. There are UFOs in the shape of disks, spheres, triangles, doughnuts, and cigars; UFOs with wings, propellers, and wheels. They are reported in all colors of the spectrum, and it is very common for them to change their color several times while being observed.

Can we explain these thousands of different UFO designs by saying that some unknown extraterrestrial civilization is exerting all of its energies to manufacture thousands of different types of spacecraft and then sending all of them to our planet? Perhaps each of several thousand extraterrestrial civilizations is sending one spacecraft to earth.

Or could UFOs be the equivalent of the Rorschach ink blot test that is used for psychological testing? A Rorschach ink blot is an abstract pattern in black and white that resembles what one would get by squashing a blob of ink between the folds of a piece of paper. During the test, a subject studies a series of these ink blots and

describes what images he can visualize in them. What is seen gives clues to the psychological condition of the subject.

Perhaps a somewhat similar mechanism operates during UFO sightings. Each witness has been told for much of his life that there are alien spacecraft cruising our skies, so when he actually sees a strange light in the sky his mind automatically concludes that it must be one. Because of the apparent illusion-producing nature of UFOs, the mind could readily fill in all nonexistent portions of the "vehicle." And, in turn, the UFO could transform itself to fit these beliefs and preconceptions.

III

Anyone who casually reads the press reports about UFO activity that appear each year might assume that the United States Air Force and all other government agencies are no longer interested in sightings of unidentified lights in the sky. But when a UFO is reported to have landed and produced physical effects, government officials usually appear on the scene, interviewing witnesses, testing the landing site, and even asking witnesses not to talk to the press.

The Air Force has had a long history of investigating UFO sightings. Early in 1947, the Air Force began funneling all of the UFO reports it received to the Air Material Command (AMC) at Wright-Patterson Air Force Base near Dayton, Ohio. The AMC completed a study of the phenomenon during that year, and determined that the objects being observed were real and most likely flying craft of some type. On December 30, 1947, the Commanding General of the Army Air Force initiated Project Sign and gave it the task of thoroughly investigating all incoming UFO reports. At this time, many top military officers were worried that the objects

might be Russian reconnaissance aircraft.

In August of the following year, a top secret report was prepared by Project Sign and sent up the chain of command for consideration and approval. After examining hundreds of UFO sightings, it had been determined that the objects could not be of Russian origin, and most likely were interplanetary spacecraft from an unknown alien civilization. In spite of the report's startling conclusion, it went as far as Air Force Chief of Staff, General Hoyt S. Vandenberg, who considered it ridiculous and ordered it burned, fearing that its public release could embarrass the military. After this reaction by its commander, the Air Force made a public announcement on December 27, 1948, stating quite simply that flying saucers did not exist and that they were terminating Project Sign.

But the flying saucers would not go away, and the continuing flow of UFO sighting reports forced the Air Force to secretly reopen its investigations in February, 1949, under a new name that may have been chosen because of the way the military felt about the whole subject. Called Project Grudge, this investigation continued in secret until 1952, when another major wave of UFO sightings swept the nation, resulting in heavy public pressure on the Air Force for another thorough study of the phenomenon. In March, 1952, the on-going investigation's name was changed to Project Bluebook, made public, and given the task of denying the existence of interplanetary spacecraft from other worlds.

One possible reason why the Air Force decided to publicly debunk all UFO sightings as being misidentifications of ordinary phenomena, is that they feared a panic similar to the one that followed Orson Wells' radio broadcast of *The War of the Worlds* in 1938. According to Professor Hadley Cantril of Princeton University,

approximately six million people listened to that fictional version of an invasion from outerspace and, of that number, at least 1,200,000 took the broadcast literally or were caught up in the mass hysteria that followed. In the city of Newark, all of the families in one apartment building ran into the street holding wet towels and handkerchiefs over their faces, and screaming that they were being attacked by poison gas. While in St. Louis hundreds of people stood on the sidewalks and stared at the sky, waiting for the sound of approaching Martian war machines. Now, more than forty years later, the events of that day seem fantastic and nearly impossible. But it is easy to see why the Air Force may have feared a reoccurrence of that panic.

Throughout the military's investigation of UFOs, after the classification of obvious misidentifications of astronomical objects, ordinary aircraft, and the like, there remained a group of reports that the Air Force could not explain, and yet did not fit the expected pattern of advanced-technology military aircraft or interplanetary spacecraft. Many top military officers felt that the phenomenon had to be psychological rather than real, and an often frantic effort was undertaken to discredit these remaining, high-quality sighting reports.

However, the Air Force's interest in unidentified flying objects did not decline. On February 17, 1954, a conference was held between the Air Force and representatives of several major airlines. Commercial airline pilots had been reporting between five and ten sightings a night during the last major UFO wave, and many of the reports had found their way into the newspapers. The resulting publicity was very difficult for the Air Force to deal with, so at this meeting they asked the pilots to report all sightings to the nearest Air Force base. In addition, they asked the pilots not to discuss their

sightings publicly, or to give them to newspaper reporters.

But this was not the only effort by the military to control the spreading belief that UFOs were spacecraft from another world. The Air Force had much more control over its own personnel, and several military orders were issued that forbade public disclosure of pertinent UFO information which the military had classified. One such order, known as JANAP-147, carried penalties of up to a maximum of ten years in jail and a fine of ten thousand dollars for anyone releasing secret UFO sighting reports.

In response to the veil of secrecy that the military was attempting to place over the subject, many civilian UFO researchers organized private investigative groups to carry on open examinations of the seemingly unending flow of new UFO reports. The largest of these organizations is the National Investigations Committee on Aerial Phenomena, called NICAP for short, which was founded in 1956. Headquartered in Washington, D.C., NICAP was originally directed by Major Donald E. Keyhoe, a former flying officer in the Marine Corps and a firm believer in the extraterrestrial hypothesis.

Although NICAP began with the sole objective of investigating UFO reports and disseminating the information to the general public, the organization soon found itself embroiled in a never-ending battle with the Air Force over the authenticity of UFO sightings. Not knowing why the military was debunking all UFO reports, NICAP's members came to the erroneous conclusion that the Air Force had concrete evidence that UFOs were extraterrestrial in nature. In hopes of forcing the government to admit this, NICAP launched a series of verbal—and usually emotional—attacks on the Air Force, the CIA, and several other government agencies. Needless to say, this has led to considerable government disfavor

toward NICAP, and all other UFO organizations.

But the Air Force's continuing policy of debunking all UFO sightings, no matter how good the evidence or how reliable the witnesses, has led that government department into problems of its own. Public opinion during the last thirty years has changed back and forth from nearly absolute belief in UFOs to nearly total skepticism more times than I care to recount. When a new wave of sightings developed, and the newspapers published numerous stories about UFO sightings and contacts, public acceptance of the UFO phenomenon rose. And when UFO sightings declined in number, newspapers tended to treat the entire subject as a crackpot issue, and public interest fell off sharply. However, the general trend over the last three decades has been a greatly increased acceptance of the extraterrestrial hypothesis on the part of the American people. And often the Air Force's public image has risen and fallen with the people's willingness to accept its UFO pronouncements.

Perhaps one of the most embarrassing moments for the Air Force came during the Exeter, New Hampshire sightings in 1965, when they compelled Dr. J. Allen Hynek, Project Bluebook's chief scientific advisor at the time, to stand up before a crowd of excited newsmen and proclaim that dozens of reliable witnesses had mistaken "swamp gas" for alien spaceships. Newspapers carried editorials mocking Dr. Hynek and the Air Force for many weeks after the incident.

Another embarrassing moment for the Air Force came during a long wave of sightings over the Great Plain states on the night of August 2, 1965. In official statements to the press, the Air Force announced that thousands of people had mistaken four bright stars in the constellation Orion for UFOs. Unconvinced by this glib explanation, several newspapermen consulted an astronomer, who

informed them that at the time of the sightings the constellation Orion was visible only from the other side of the earth. This rather fantastic blunder attracted widespread editorial attention as well, and severely, if only temporarily, damaged the Air Force's credibility.

What makes this whole charade so ridiculous is the fact that the Air Force could accept such an unworkable method for dealing with UFO reports, and that UFO organizations could believe that such a conspiracy of silence existed. The very idea that the Air Force alone, or even in concert with the CIA or other government agencies, could conceal the "fact" that the earth was being visited by massive numbers of alien spaceships is quite incredible.

Eventually, these facts became apparent to the Air Force and a new tactic for dealing with UFO reports was decided upon. In 1966, the Air Force awarded the University of Colorado a $300,000 grant to undertake an eighteen-month study of the UFO phenomenon and prepare a final report that the Air Force vainly hoped would once and for all put an end to the belief in extraterrestrial visitation. To make certain that a conclusion acceptable to the Air Force was reached, the scientists chosen for the project were, for the most part, opposed not only to the extraterrestrial hypothesis, but to all other possibilities as well. This was not difficult to do. For years, scientists, and particularly astronomers, had carefully avoided the subject. The phenomenon was discredited and mocked at every opportunity, and scientific conservatism made disbelief in the sincerity of the witnesses a mandatory response. For a scientist dependent on an institution for his livelihood, investigating a UFO sighting would endanger his position and career—and risk the loss of future research grants. Scientists who were interested in UFOs—and there were a

few—felt obligated to study the question in secret.

For these reasons, many individuals on both sides of the question were pleased when the Air force announced that Edward U. Condon, a renowned physicist, would direct the University of Colorado's scientific study. The UFO buffs and scientists of every persuasion hoped that the investigation would find some answers, or at least deal honestly with the questions involved. This was not to be.

The Colorado study ran into credibility problems during the first few months of its existence, and was never able to rid itself of them. According to the *Star-Gazette* of Elmira, New York, Dr. Condon told a public meeting he was addressing that, "It is my inclination right now to recommend that the government get out of this business. My attitude right now is that there's nothing to it...but I'm not supposed to reach a conclusion for another year." Dr. Condon went on to say that the UFO mystery "would be a worthwhile study for those groups interested in meteorological phenomena." A few months later, Dr. Condon asked for approximately a quarter of a million dollars more to continue his study.

Dr. Condon's remarks angered many of the UFO organizations involved in the project; but the worst was yet to come. On August 9, 1966, Robert J. Low, Project Coordinator for the study, wrote a memo in which he revealed his own reservations about the entire subject of UFOs. Then, to suggest a format for the study, he wrote:

> The trick would be, I think, to describe the project so that to the public, it would appear a totally objective study but, to the scientific community, would present the image of a group of nonbelievers trying their best to be objective but having an almost zero expectation of finding a flying saucer.

The memo was given to the press by several members of

the Colorado Project who had become disgusted with the lack of impartiality. Dr. Condon was incensed by the disclosure of the Low memo, and proceeded to dismiss the two Project members when he considered responsible for the leak. Without these two men, nothing stood in the way of Dr. Condon's plan for writing a negative conclusion to the UFO question.

To accomplish this end, Robert Low negotiated a subcontract with the Sanford Research Institute to prepare a study of reflections, mirages, and other natural anomalies which would be included in the Project's final report. All that was required was a written review of the existing literature; the Institute was not asked to look at a single UFO report. For this they were paid $50,000.

The final report of the Colorado Project is a huge volume—some 965 pages long in its paperback edtion—and its length has probably discouraged most readers except for concerned scientists and enthusiastic UFO researchers. Dr. Condon's negative conclusions are contained in the first forty pages, and little of what follows is worth reading. Approximately half of the final report consists of reprints of 1950's Air Force releases, interspersed with other irrelevant essays on meteorological and astronomical phenomena. The government documents obtained by the Project at little or not cost, often bear little relationship to the topic under discussion, and apparently were included only as padding to lengthen the overly long volume. Nearly all of the charts and graphs provided in the report are also from old Air Force press releases, and the committee did not even bother to update these statistics.

Worse yet, many of the UFO cases studied by the Colorado Project do not support the negative conclusion Dr. Condon attached to the final report. Approximately thirty percent of the more than 100 cases studied in depth

by the Project featured UFOs that could neither be identified nor rejected for lack of information. These cases included three sightings by orbiting astronauts, and several incidents with both visual and radar observation of the UFOs.

But the greatest mistake made by the Colorado Project was to consider only the question of whether or not UFO reports supported the theory of extraterrestrial visitation. I would agree with its negative conclusion on that point. But the important question—and the question that the Colorado Project never asked—is whether or not UFOs are a real phenomenon that is new to science.

On December 17, 1969, after receiving the Colorado Project's final report, the Air Force announced that it was closing down its Project Bluebook on the basis of the negative conclusion published by Dr. Condon and the study's other members. Civilians were advised to report future UFO sightings to their local police or to members of the scientific community.

Today, the greatest majority of the nation's people believe that the Air Force is no longer interested in investigating UFO sightings. However, as I have already mentioned, there is considerable evidence that the Air Force, NORAD, and the CIA are continuing to study the problem in secret, while other government agencies seem confused about the sighting reports that come to their attention. Meanwhile, pilots and military men continue to meet behind closed doors and swap scary stories of their close encounter with UFOs.

IV

There is some evidence that the Air Force has been more interested in the intense colored lights that are associated with UFOs than in the alien spaceships some investigators have assumed they are part of since the early

1950's. During this period, Air Force Chief of Staff, General Hoyt S. Vandenberg reportedly ordered the Laboratory of Applied Physics at the University of Los Angeles to construct a spectroscopic motion picture camera with the capability to track a UFO and provide an instant analysis of the emitted light energy. This plan was given the name of "Project Beacon," and eventually included a proposal to install two hundred such cameras at the same number of observation sites, located primarily in the southwestern United States.

A final report on the results of this investigation was scheduled for release in December, 1953, but nothing was ever published and the Air Force became very unwilling to discuss anything about Project Beacon. Some UFO buffs suggested that the military had discovered some facts about these mysterious aerial lights that they wished to keep from the American people. But Captain Edward Ruppelt, who originally directed Project Bluebook, claimed the reason was a major problem with the spectroscopic cameras, which "wouldn't satisfactorily photograph a million-candle-power flare at 450 yards. The cameras themselves were all right, but in combination with the grating, they were no good." It is very possible that technological problems did prevent Project Beacon from ever functioning, but the fact remains that the Air Force was—at least during this period of time—investigating evidence in the UFO phenomenon that may have led them away from the extraterrestrial theory and toward the truth.

PART FOUR:

The Search For Meaning

CHAPTER 14

I

Charles Hickson and Calvin Parker were contently sitting on a deserted wharf in Pascagoula, Mississippi. It was a pleasant southern evening; a perfect time to while away the hours fishing in the local river. They had no idea that something would be fishing for them that night. The date was October 11, 1973.

Around 8:00 P.M., Hickson heard a buzzing sound; looking up, he noticed a pulsating blue light moving across the water and apparently toward them. As the light approached the riverbank, Hickson saw it as being a flying craft of some type, about 20 feet long and oblong in shape. The UFO suddenly came to a stop over the riverbank and hovered a foot or two in the air. An instant later, a door appeared in the object's side and three strange looking creatures floated out and across the wharf. Before Hickson and Parker were able to run, the UFO's occupants had taken hold of them and were carrying them back toward the object. Calvin Parker later told news reporters: "Well, I'm just a country boy that has never seen anything like that—of course nobody has—and to

tell you the truth, it scared me to death! I don't know why I didn't jump into the river!" The creatures were about five feet tall, each with two arms and two legs, but, beyond this, there was little resemblance to human beings. Their heads were neckless, long, and rounded, with two pointed projections sticking out horizontally where the ears should have been. Each of the occupants exhibited a nose, in the appropriate position, which also was a pointed projection, no visible eyes, and a mouth that was a straight, horizontal slit. The creatures were covered with a light gray, wrinkled skin or suit that flickered like a metallic material in the dim light. At the end of each arm was a set of claws similar to the pinchers of a crab.

As Hickson was lifted into the UFO by two of the creatures, he glanced back and saw the third creature floating toward them, carrying Parker, who obviously had fainted. After passing through the door, Hickson saw the entrance vanish and found himself in a strange room without any sign of machinery or controls.

Unable to move, Hickson watched helplessly as a device, which looked like a huge, human eye, moved over his body; the eye, or scanner, did not appear to be attached to anything as it floated above him at a distance of approximately 10 inches. Several times during this examination, Hickson attempted to converse with the creatures, but received only a soft, buzzing noise as a response from one of them. After spending between 20 and 40 minutes aboard the UFO, Hickson and Parker were gently picked up and floated through the air back to the same spot on the wharf that they had been taken from. Throughout this period, no attempt at communication was made by the UFO occupants. The creatures returned to the UFO and flew off. "It seemed gone almost instantly," Hickson recalled later, "and it sure didn't look like a plane taking off."

Hickson then looked over at Parker, who stood nearby, bewildered and immobile, his arms outstretched. He got Parker moving, and both men headed toward Hickson's car for a drink to calm their nerves. They began talking about their frightening experience and made the agonizing decision to keep their story a secret. "Ain't no use in us reporting this," Hickson explained to his fishing partner. "Nobody'll believe us!"

However, after more discussion, they decided it would be impossible not someone about their abduction by UFO occupants, so they drove to the offices of the *Mississippi Press*, a local newspaper. But no reporters were in the building that late at night. Next, they telephoned the County Sheriff's Department and talked to Captain Glen Ryder. The Sheriff's Department had received several other phone calls that night from witnesses who had seen strange lights in the sky, and Captain Ryder, who was generally impressed by their story, told Hickson and Parker to wait where they were until he could pick them up. Earlier in the evening, Captain Ryder had talked with a gas station operator who said he had watched a UFO from his service station on Highway 90 and a clergyman who had observed an unidentified blue light hovering over the Pascagoula river not far from where Hickson and Parker had been fishing.

After driving the two men back to the Sheriff's office, Captain Ryder was joined by Sheriff Diamond and they began interrogating Hickson and Parker. Although placed in different rooms and questioned separately, Hickson and Parker continued to tell the same, identical story to their interrogators. After this technique failed to break down their story, Captain Ryder had both men placed alone in a single cell which had been equipped with a hidden microphone attached to a tape recorder. With no one in sight, and unaware that they were being monitored,

Hickson and Parker began reliving their terrifying abduction.

Parker, fearing that the UFO's occupants might return for him, sobbed and called out, "God, help me! Don't let me die! Protect me. I won't tell anything!" Hickson, who also was becoming more hysterical, then asked, "Why did this have to happen to me? I made it through the war...I've never been so scared." After listening to the tape of this conversation, Captain Ryder was convinced that the two men had been through a truly frightening experience.

The following morning, Hickson and Parker were taken to Keesler Air Force Base to be tested for radioactive contamination. The tests, fortunately, were negative, but while the two men were at the government facility they were interrogated for several hours by Air Force intelligence officers. The military's official position of not being interested in UFO reports was suddenly being ignored.

On October 30, 1973, Charles Hickson was taken to New Orleans, Louisiana, where a polygraph expert from the Pendleton Detective Agency administered a lie detector test. Hickson passed the test easily, and the polygraph operator, Scott Glasgow, certified that Hickson was telling the truth—or what he believed was the truth. Hickson, along with Parker, would also be hypnotized by Professor James Harder of the University of California at Berkeley. Dr. Harder regressed the two men back to the point in time when they underwent their abduction experience. Hickson and Parker vividly relived their terrifying adventure under hypnosis, but they were unable to provide any new and significant information about the UFO or its occupants during the trance.

In the weeks following this abduction case, literally hundreds of citizens in this area of Mississippi saw strange lights in the skies. Sheriff Diamond, himself, became a

witness while attending a fish fry on a houseboat. Two glowing spheres with flickering blue lights appeared overhead and were observed by everyone at the party. Sheriff Diamond telephoned the Air Force and was told to contact the Air Traffic Control Tower at Houston's (Mississippi) airport. But the Air Traffic Control people were not interested since none of their aircraft were involved and no human lives were in immediate danger.

The most significant UFO sighting during this period occurred not in the sky, but under water. Raymond Ryan was fishing alone from a small boat on the Pascagoula River during the early evening of November 6th, when he noticed that a mysterious underwater light was following his craft. He quickly rowed the boat to shore and contacted his brother, Rayme, and the two men attempted to approach the submerged UFO in their small craft. They were able to maneuver their boat to a position above the underwater light, but, when they poked at the object with their oars, the submerged UFO simply became darker, as if it were going deeper.

Uncertain about what they had found beneath water, Raymond Ryan telephoned the Coast Guard and that branch of the military responded by sending a 16-foot boat to the area. The officers on the Coast Guard craft easily found the underwater light and positioned their boat above it. They later described the UFO to reporter Bob Klinn of the *Santa Ana Register* (a California newspaper) as being "a soft light source about four inches long which cast an oval beam straight ahead for four, five, or six feet. Beneath the four inch light source and attached to it was a shiny metallic rod a couple of feet long and about four inches wide."

The Coast Guard crew attempted to force the UFO to the surface using boat oars and hooks, but the submerged object would respond by becoming dimmer and gliding

off about 30 yards. The Coast Guard craft and the boat with the Ryan brothers chased the underwater UFO—neither group managing to hit it with an oar—for nearly an hour, then the mysterious light just disappeared. In their written report, the Coast Guard officers described the submerged object as being "of unidentifiable origin."

Calvin Parker was hospitalized with a nervous breakdown shortly after the abduction incident, and, although he recovered, at last report he still suffers from the terror he experienced on that October evening. Charles Hickson, however, has become more philosophical about his experience. On the first anniversary of his abduction, he returned to the wharf and waited, "kinda hopin' that they would come back." The next day, Hickson toured the facilities of a civilian UFO study group, Project Starlight, in Austin, Texas, along with Mr. and Mrs. Ray Stanford, Dr. William Mendez, Robert Dunnam, and Dan Cornelison; during that evening, the group observed a bright orange object hovering above a cluster of trees approximately 5,000 feet from them. Since his 1973 encounter, Hickson has reported seeing still other UFOs.

Because of his presence at several UFO sightings, it has been suggested that Hickson, himself, might be a catalyst for such events through some as yet unknown parapsychological ability. A factor that may lend support to this theory is Hickson's claim that he has never been able to wear a wrist or pocket watch of any kind because they always, "either lose time or gain, or just plain stop."

The abduction story told by Hickson and Parker was not accepted by the press without criticism concerning its veracity. Some newspaper reporters who visited Pascagoula claimed that a UFO could not have landed on the riverbanks without being observed by two bridge-tenders who operate two nearby drawbridges. Although

one of these—the Highway 90 bridge tower—has an unobstructed view of the wharf where the incident occurred, the tower is heavily insulated and has control panels and chairs facing away from the west bank of the river where Hickson and Parker allegedly were abducted. The bridge-tenders, whose primary function is to raise the bridge for river traffic, spend much of their time reading newspapers and usually look out over the river only when they hear a ship's whistle; it is quite possible that they were not looking in the right direction and missed the UFO. It is also possible that the UFO approached the wharf under water and created the illusion of an aerial object, occupants, and an abduction in the minds of Hickson and Parker through hypnosis or some other unknown psychological mechanism.

II

Hypnotism plays an important role in the most famous of all contactee cases: the abduction of Betty and Barney Hill. During an automobile trip through New England in September of 1961, this married couple lost two hours one night without any clue as to what happened to the time. Following this incident, they began suffering from nightmares and other psychological problems. Betty Hill could only remember that they had seen a UFO descend toward the highway during their trip, and that something had caused them to leave the scene quickly. Every night, she experienced terrifying dreams, apparently related to the UFO's appearance. In hopes of discovering what might have happened during the two missing hours, she wrote to civilian UFO group, NICAP, which eventually put her in contact with Dr. Benjamin Simon, a respected Boston psychiatrist.

Dr. Simon interviewed the Hills and decided that hypnosis might be useful in helping the couple remember

what transpired during this period of temporary amnesia. In a series of hypnotic sessions a strange story emerged. On the night of September 19, 1961, according to the hypnotized Hills, they were driving on U.S. Route 3, returning home from a vacation in Canada. About 11:00 P.M., they saw a bright light descending from the sky. They continued to watch the UFO, and after a few minutes, it was close enough to see that apparently it was a flying craft of some type, round with flashing lights. When the object still continued to approach them, Barney Hill stopped their car, took a pair of binoculars out of the trunk, and walked into a deserted field for a better look. With this additional magnification, he could see a row of windows on the UFO—and several evil-looking beings who were staring back at him.

Terrified, Barney ran back to the car and drove down the empty roadway at high speed. A few minutes later, the Hills heard a mysterious beeping sound and suddenly began to feel very drowsy. Apparently, their conscious minds blacked out at this point. The next thing they could remember was that the car had stopped and they were surrounded by the UFO's evil'looking occupants. These creatures had bodies that were very similar to a human's, but their heads were strangely shaped, with tiny mouths, flat noses, and only holes for ears. Their eyes were slanted and penetrating, which gave them a very sinister appearance.

The creatures marched the Hills back to the UFO, assured them they they would not be harmed, and then subjected them to a long medical examination. During this examination the UFO's occupants inserted a long needle into Betty's stomach and removed Barney's false teeth for closer inspection. They seemed quite puzzled by the fact that Barney's teeth could be removed and Betty's could not. After this ordeal, the Hills were dragged back to the

highway and released with a post-hypnotic suggestion to forget everything that had happened to them.

Their story was later told in John Fuller's book, *the Interrupted Journey*, and the case has received a considerable amount of serious study, unlike most UFO incidents. Several proponents of the extraterrestrial theory of UFO origin quickly accepted this case as proof that our planet is being visited clandestinely by aliens from outerspace. However, Dr. Simon expressed a much more reserved opinion of what had actually happened on that lonely section of road; he concluded that the Hills had, indeed, been through a very terrifying experience and believed their story was true, but, in his opinion, the supposed abduction was only a psychological reaction to an encounter with some unknown aerial phenomenon. This seems to be the most likely possibility. But one question remains, how much of the abduction story came from the UFO itself?

III

UFO abduction cases occur every year, usually with a single participant, but sometimes with two or more. A more recent case, which happened on January 6, 1976, near the town of Stanford, Kentucky, involved three women. January 6th was Mona Stafford's thirty-sixth birthday; she and two friends, Mrs. Louise Smith and Mrs. Elaine Thomas, celebrated this occasion by dining out at the Redwood Restaurant in Lancaster, kentucky. About 11:30 P.M., they were driving home on a deserted section of Route 78, when Mona Stafford spotted a glowing red light in the eastern sky. As the three women watched, the light rapidly descended to tree-top level and formed into a solid-looking disk. A row of windows and a line of blinking red lights became instantly visible. On the very bottom of the object was a row of yellow lights, while

on the top was a glowing bluish-white dome. The UFO hovered for a moment and then glided toward the car, only to stop a short distance from the vehicle and hover again. Suddenly, three shafts of bluish-white light shot from the disk to the road, and then a beam of light flashed into the car, lighting up the interior as if it were mid-day. The shaft of light made the passengers' skin tingle and burn, and tears ran from their eyes. Mrs. Smith, who owned the car and was behind the wheel, had stopped the vehicle as the UFO approached; now, she began driving down the road, hoping to get away from the terrifying object. She looked at the speedometer which was reading eighty-five miles per hour and removed her foot from the accelerator; glancing at the speedometer again, she was shocked to see that it still read eighty-five. Putting her foot down hard on the brake pedal had no effect; the car continued racing down the road at the same high speed. Everything outside of the car appeared dark and strangely unfamiliar; there were no lights on either side, no divider line in the road, and no passing cars. Even more bizarre was the fact that the highway appeared to be very straight, although the section of Route 78 they were on winds back and forth for many miles.

The next thing they knew, they were driving along at normal speed through a familiar area of the countryside. All three women were still suffering from a burning sensation and headaches from their close encounter with the UFO. They drove to Louise Smith's trailer home, where they discovered the time was 1:25 A.M. Mrs. Smith glanced at her wristwatch and found that the minute hand was moving around the dial at the same speed as the second hand. Checking her wristwatch, Mrs. Thomas discovered that it had stopped. The three women then checked the other clocks in the trailer and found that they all read 1:25 A.M. The trip from Lancaster should

have taken only about fifty minutes, so more than an hour and a half had just vanished during their drive.

On January 8th, Mrs. Smith felt well enough to drive her car again for the first time since the UFO encounter. Shortly after starting out for her job with the County Extension Office, the vehicle's engine stalled. She contacted a service station and had the car restarted. On her way again, she was stopped by a police officer who said she had not signaled for a turn. Mrs. Smith was convinced that she had, but, upon checking, discovered that the vehicle's signal lights and tail lights were burned out. She could only wonder if the UFO was responsible for her misfortunes.

Dr. Leo Sprinkle, a psychologist at the University of Wyoming and a consultant to the civilian UFO group APRO, entered the case shortly after the *Casey County News* carried an interview with one of the women. APRO was interested in the case for many reasons, including the high credibility of the three women and the fact that other witnesses in the area had seen a similar UFO on the night of the incident. About 8:00 P.M., Mike Fitzpatrick, David Irving, and four more members of Irving's family had observed a disk-shaped object hovering over the Angel Manufacturing plant in the town of Stanford. They tried to report their sighting to the Stanford police, but the law enforcement agency refused to accept the report. APRO was able to arrange financing to bring Dr. Sprinkle to Kentucky, and on July 23rd the first of a long series of hypnotic sessions began. While in the trance state, the women told a terrifying story of abduction and physical examination aboard the UFO.

"Something was over my face," Mrs. Smith recalled under hypnosis. "It was so hot in there I could hardly breathe. I was restrained on a table. The pain was so bad. They poured something over me and when they pulled it

off, it came away like tape, like they were making a mold of me."

"Then I saw one of them. It was about four feet tall and wearing a hooded thing. All I could see was its eyes. They were bigger than human eyes and slanted. They were so piercing. It never said a word, but somehow when it looked at me, I knew everything it wanted me to do," Mrs. Smith concluded.

Mrs. Stafford's examination was no less painful; at one point, she said it felt as if her eyes were being pulled out. "I was on a white table as big as a bed," she recalled. "I couldn't move, but nobody was holding me down. It was some sort of power doing it, a big crystal with lightening coming out of it."

Mrs. Thomas remembered being placed in a smaller chamber. "I fit there perfectly—couldn't move a finger. There was something wet on my face and something pressing into my chest...I could see them. They floated in the air around me. I could tell they didn't want me to talk. I could understand their thought waves," she expalined.

More strange experiences were to follow the hypnosis sessions. On the night of July 8, 1976, Mrs. Smith awoke from a sound sleep feeling an irresistible urge to return to the site of the UFO encounter. She quickly dressed and drove to that section of Route 78 alone. Shaking with fear, she stood at the site for a long time. The UFO did not reappear, but at one point she felt a strange tugging sensation in her hands. Around 3:00 A.M., she suddenly found herself running back to the car; she got in and drove home. Inside the car, she glanced at her fingers and discovered that three rings were missing. The next day, Mrs. Smith called the police and asked for help in recovering the jewelery. Officer Mike Cooley met her at the encounter site and both of them searched the area thoroughly, but the rings could not be found. Mrs. Smith

began to feel that this incident was a warning from their alien abductors to keep silent.

Later that year, however, a secretary for the producer of Tom Snyder's TV program "Tomorrow" contacted the three women and offered to pay their expenses if they would come to New York City and apepar on the show. Louise Smith and Elaine Thomas accepted this invitation, but only Mrs. Smith appeared on the program, which was televised in February, 1977. Mrs. Thomas later said that she did not appear on the show because she feared "they" might not have wanted her to. She further explained that Louise Smith, while under hypnosis, had revealed a promise to the UFO occupants not to talk about their abduction. "I thought about what Louise had promised and I guess that's why I didn't want to go on TV," Mrs. Thomas continued. "I watched from the studio while Lou was talking on TV and I thought she might be doing wrong. I was so afraid something might happen to the plane on the way home because she had talked.'

Later, Mrs. Thomas became more philosophical about her experience, much as Charles Hickson did. "I feel they're ready for me to know something," she said of her UFO abductors. "I believe they will give me information."

"I think every day how I wish I could know what it was they wanted me to know."

"I do hope I see them again."

It seems quite likely the UFOs are trying to give us some information, although it is usually distored and confused—perhaps by design. Consider the following case.

About 10:30 P.M., on the night of April 2, 1971, Morris Heflin was driving on the Crosstown Expressway in Oklahoma City, Oklahoma. He pulled over to the side of the road when he saw a saucer-shaped object directing a beam of light toward the ground, as if it were searching for

something. Heflin believed that he could see a dim green light beneath the flying disk, and three portholes on its side. Also visible on the side were the numbers 1X-1478 in huge black numerals. The UFO moved slowly down the side of the highway, its white beam still probing the night, and vanished into the darkness.

This is not the end of the story. Heflin saw "1X-1478" again on May 8, 1971, while he was crossing the North Canadian River Bridge at about 2:45 AM. It was moving silently over a line of trees about one hundred feet south of the bridge, its same spotlight scanning the ground. After watching the strange object for about five minutes, Heflin began to fear for his own safety and decided it would be advisable to drive off.

When Heflin arrived at home, he telephoned Mrs. Kietha Fish, editor of the *Kansas-Oklahoma Newsletter*, and made arrangements to meet her at the site where he had seen the UFO. Mrs. Fish had been skeptical of his story at first, but when she examined the ground where the UFO had shined its light she found the bark on several trees had been scorched and certain areas of the ground were covered with an odorless ash. She was convinced that some strange object had, indeed, passed overhead.

Were the letters and numbers on the side of the UFO an illusion, or could UFOs possess some elemental intelligence and be attempting to communicate with human beings? Several times it had been suggested that UFOs could be a radically different type of life form. They may possess a kind of intelligence that enables them to influence the minds of their human witnesses through hypnosis—or perhaps telepathy—and project what appears to be three-dimensional images to the observers of UFO activity. If there are no spacecraft, there are probably no occupants either. The UFOs may permit each witness to observe them in a form that is most

acceptable. This could explain why some observers see little green men, others helicopter pilots, and still others huge monsters. The preconceptions that individual witnesses have about the nature of the strange lights in the sky may be the determining factor in what is seen during the UFO encounter.

Perhaps, the hallucinations occur partly because the human brain is not equipped to handle the abrupt and massive influx of information from a glowing ball of light, and the UFOs may actually be attempting to impart knowledge of great complexity and importance rather than the simplistic visions most witnesses receive. In any event, the hypnotic powers of UFOs are real and can be overpowering as many witnesses have learned.

In the summer of 1969, Englishman John Fairfax spent six harrowing months rowing across the Atlantic Ocean, from Great Britain to Florida. In the middle of the sea, Fiarfax saw several UFOs flying overhead. They appeared ten times brighter in the sky than Venus. As he watched them, he felt a strange force come over him, and he had the unexplainable feeling that the UFOs were asking him to come with them. It took all of Fairfax's willpower to resist the mysterious compulsion, as he rapidly sank into a state resembling hypnosis. Fairfax had lit a cigarette before the UFOs first appeared, and only after they had sailed off into the distance did he realize that the cigarette had burned his fingers. On every ocean in the world, ships have been found floating abandoned, with no trace of their crews ever turning up. Perhaps, they simply stepped off the decks of their ships into the ocean, while answering the compulsive call of a UFO.

John Fairfax survived his lonely encounter with UFOs; others have not been so lucky. On August 20, 1966, Brazilian police officers in Niteroi, a suburb of Rio de Janerio, climbed a hillside after receiving a report that a

UFO had been observed hovering in the sky above the hill. They hoped to find some evidence that would tell them what the UFO had been, but they found much more than they were looking for.

At a point near the top of the hill the police found the bodies of two men, their faces covered with hand-fashioned lead masks. On the ground near the bodies were several slips of paper with notations written in Portuguese. One of the notes read: "At 4:30 PM we will take the capsules...After the effect is produced, protect half the face with lead masks. Wiat for agreed signal."

Inspector Jose Venancio Bittencourt, of the Rio de Janeiro police, was given the job of supervising the investigation into the mysterious deaths. The two dead men were identified as Manoel Cruz and Miguel Viana, and it was learned that they were amateur experimenters in electronics related to contacting UFOs. After an autopsy had been performed on the two bodies, Inspector Bittencourt appeared before the press to announce that there was no known medical reason for the deaths. Extensive testing by pathologists had been unable to find any cause.

The medical examiners were able, however, to determine that the deaths had taken place on August 17th, the day when two witnesses had reported seeing a UFO hovering over the area where the bodies were later found. What strange games had they been playing on that deserted hill with a glowing ball of light?

CHAPTER 15

I

On May 3, 1969, Air Marshal Sir Victor Goddard, who took part in a Royal Air Force investigation of UFOs during the 1950s, gave a public lecture at Caxton Hall in London, in which he openly discussed the possibility that UFOs are interdimensional in origin.

"That while it may be that some operators of UFO are normally the paraphysical denizens of a planet other than Earth, there is no logical need for this to be so. For, if the materiality of UFO is paraphysical (and consequently normally invisible), UFO could more plausibly be creations of an invisible world coincident with the space of our physical Earth...". Sir Victor went on to express the following opinion on the meaning behind the UFO phenomenon: "Seeing some of [this other dimension's] denizens are eager to exemplify principalities and powers...[while] many of their theses may be framed to propagate some special phantasm, perhaps of an earlier incarnation, or to indulge an inveterate and continuing technological urge toward material progress, or simply to astonish and disturb the gullible for the devil of it."

Back in April, 1955, England's Royal Air Force had issued a public statement, widely reported by the British press on April 24th, that the RAF's UFO investigation had been completed and a solution found to the mystery. However, the RAF spokesman claimed, the details could not be released to the general public because they involved certain military secrets and their release would only cause more controversy. Could the RAF simply have been afraid of the chaos that might result if the existence of this invisible world became public knowledge?

Perhaps chaos, and the fear and terror which accompanies it, is the real reason for the cattle mutilations, UFO sightings, and alien abductions. The ancient Chinese philosophers believed that the emotions of human beings were drained off and absorbed by some paraphysical force which used this energy to replenish itself. In their terminology, human beings are merely "moon food."

On February 21, 1979, the *Albuquerque News* published a photograph taken by a retired Sandia Laboratories scientist at an animal multilation site that revealed two mysterious aerial objects that had not been visible to the naked eyes. "I'm not saying what they are," Howard Burgess said of the pictures he snapped within 48 hours after the cow had been killed near Dulce, New Mexico. "But I know I saw nothing in the sky when I shot them."

"It could be a flaw in the film, but I've never had that happen before. I don't care if anybody believes my story because I'm not trying to sell anything or push any viewpoints."

Burgess shot an entire roll of film at the mutilation site. Two photos, taken nine frames apart, show two dark, round spots in the sky. The spots were in different positions in both photographs, and no other picture from

the 20-shot roll of Plus-X panchromatic black and white film shows the least irregularity.

"There are some indications that some kind of craft landed," Burgess said, referring to the mutilation site. "I'm not saying it isn't fake, that someone isn't playing games with us. If someone wanted to, they could have us spinning our wheels the rest of our lives."

"I try to keep myself from accepting any one version. That way I don't get blasted. If we thought it was spacecraft, we'd start finding all sorts of evidence it was spacecraft."

I have been researching the cattle mutilations since 1973, yet I can offer no final figure on how many animals have died in this hideous fashion. The number could be as high as ten thousand. The evidence for these crimes still lies in many pastures. In some of the states where mutilations have occurred, the phenomenon has ceased and all that remains is a few bleached bones. In other communities, the terror continues.

APPENDIX

The major UFO organizations in the United States are listed below. If you wish to write to one of these groups regarding personal UFO sightings, subscriptions to publications, memberships, etc., it is advisable to include a stamped, self-addressed envelope since these organizations operate on very limited budgets.

APRO—Aerial Phenomena Research Organizations
James Lorenzen, Director
3901 East Kleindale Road
Tuscon, Arizona 85712

CUFOS—Center for UFO Studies
J. Allen Hynek, Director
P. O. Box 11
Northfield, Illinois 60093

GSW—Ground Saucer Watch
William H. Spaulding, Director
13238 North Seventh Drive
Phoenix, Arizona 85029

MUFON—Mutual UFO Network
Walter H. Andrus, Jr., International Director
103 Oldtowne Road
Seguin, Texas 78155

NICAP—National Investigations Committee Aerial Phenomena
John L. Acuff, President
3535 University Boulevard West
Kensington, Maryland 20795

PSI—Project Starlight International
Ray Stanford, Director
P.O. Box 5310
Austin, Texas 78763

SITU—Society for the Inevstigation of the Unexplained
Robert C. Warth, President
R.F.D. 5
Gales Ferry, Connecticut 06355

UFO—Research Center (Canadian)
Henry McKay, Chairman
P.O. Box 427, Station F
Toronto, Ontario, Canada M4Y2L8

AUTHOR'S NOTE

This book is a factual account, and in most instances the individuals involved and the locations concerned are identified by name. In some cases, the identities of certain participants have been concealed to protect their privacy. Nevertheless, all of the incidents portrayed in this account actually took place as described, and are based on the author's personal experiences, interviews, correspondence, and extensive research.

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THE FACTS are, that the state of New Mexico has appointed an official commission headed by a former FBI agent to investigate these crimes.

THE FACTS are, that somebody had better find out what's going on out there!